

THE TIMES

Tomorrow

Hubub

Roger Boyes on the threat of new unrest in Poland over food price increases next month



Bubble
The battle to publish Shakespeare in comic-strip form: three of his plays are now in print

Tell...
Who does the actual conveyancing work in a solicitor's office - and is the house-buyer subsidizing the litigant? ... and trouble

Sean Connery talks about his new Bond film, *Never Say Never Again*

Banking ombudsman likely

A banking ombudsman to deal with customers' grievances is likely to be appointed in response to the report on banking services published by the National Consumer Council. Although the council found that customers were generally satisfied, it recommends improvement in some areas, including opening hours and bank charges

Page 3

Wife murderer jailed for life

Peter Reyn-Bardt, who admitted killing his wife, Malika, more than 20 years ago, was sentenced to life imprisonment after conviction for murder by Chester Crown Court

Page 2

Eagle stakes up

Allianz Versicherungen, the West German insurance group, and BAT Industries, the British tobacco and retailing empire, each raised their record-breaking takeover bids yesterday for the Eagle Star insurance group

Page 15

Killer executed

Louisiana's first execution in 22 years took place yesterday when Robert Wayne Williams was electrocuted for the shotgun killing of a supermarket guard

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Murray victory leaves NGA in bitter retreat

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Trade union resistance to the Government's labour laws began to crumble last night as Mr Len Murray, the TUC general secretary, won a vote of confidence for his policy of non-conventionality of the Employment Act.

The TUC General Council agreed by 29 votes to 21 to uphold Mr Murray's unprecedented repudiation of a decision by the employment policy and organization committee (EPOC) to support a one-day printing strike declared unlawful by the High Court.

It now seems likely that the National Graphical Association will cut its losses and concede defeat in the six-month closed shop dispute with Mr Salim (Eddie) Shah's Messenger Group newspapers, which has cost the union £675,000 in fines for contempt of court orders banning mass picketing.

NGA leaders meet in Bedford today to determine their next step. Mr Joe Wade, the union's General Secretary, was angry and bitter. He said: "Not only have we been sold down the river, but every trade union affiliated to the TUC has been sold down the river."

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Police draft reforms on use of guns

By Our Crime Reporter

A package of changes for police firearms training and the assessment of officers in the wake of the shooting of Mr Steven Walford in January are being proposed by a working party of the Association of Chief Police Officers.

The changes include doubling the initial training period to two weeks, increasing the refresher courses to two days, three or four times a year, and teaching policemen better emotional control and a better appreciation of when or when not to open fire.

Details of the recommendations are given tonight on *Thames TV Eye*, which looks at the *Waldorf* shooting. The recommendations are outlined by Assistant Commissioner Geoffrey Dear, who is in charge of training and personnel at Scotland Yard.

Decisions on the proposals are likely to be taken in the new year - there are plans to introduce a number of psychological tests to assess officers during their early training and the tests may be repeated every few years to keep pace with officers' emotional changes.

In London the recommendations would also call for the presence where possible of a member of DSI, the specialized police firearms experts, when guns were used.

Irish airport plan in trouble

The Government of the Irish Republic has told sponsors of a plan to build an airport at Knock, co Mayo, the Marian shrine village, that it will supply no more cash for the project.

More than £7m has been spent by successive governments on constructing a 7,500ft runway but a further £3.5m is still needed. Yesterday the Government decided that sponsors of the airport would have to find the rest of the cash elsewhere.

BP officers halt joint mess plan

British Petroleum yesterday shelved plans for "social integration" of officers and ratings on their oil tankers after a threat of industrial action from the officers' trade union.

The Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association (MNAOA) told the oil company that its 600 members in the 26 BP vessels had adopted a policy of non-cooperation with the proposals and would obstruct any attempt to impose mixed mess and recreational facilities.

Life-support man donates kidneys

The family of Mr Graham Alcock, aged 28, yesterday approved the use of his organs for transplants, even though he is still on a life support machine.

Mr Alcock of Tewin, Staffordshire, was admitted to hospital on Monday with serious head injuries when he fell 10ft from a ladder at work. But his wife yesterday accepted that he was clinically dead.

Correction

Mr Richard Ryder, Conservative MP for Mid Norfolk, points out that at a press conference on Tuesday he said he would be disappointed if the Government did not support the principles underlying the House Buyers Bill and not, as reported yesterday, the Bill itself.

QE2 wrangle as Germans deny responsibility for boiler fault

By Michael Bally, Transport Editor

The West German shipyard which carried out a £4.5m refit of the Queen Elizabeth 2 yesterday denied responsibility for her boiler troubles. Hapag-Lloyd of Bremerhaven said that work was carried out on all three of the QE2's boilers during her stay: two by Hapag-Lloyd and one by a British contractor. The two boilers they had worked on worked perfectly, Hapag-Lloyd said; the other did not.

When trouble arose on the third boiler Cunard asked if the ship could stay in the yard beyond her planned departure date on Monday for it to be rectified, but Hapag-Lloyd declined, partly because of the tide.

"Our work was done. The ship left the yard with all work due to Hapag-Lloyd completed on time. We wanted to make sure the problem was not on our side,"

The British contractor working on the third boiler was Haworth Engineering, a respected maker of marine pumps, compressors, and combustion equipment in Poole, Dorset.

A spokesman for the parent Powell Duffryn Group said: "So far as we are concerned there has been no problem with our equipment at all. We have a contract with Cunard to fit new burners to all three burners on the QE2. One was installed satisfactorily in Bremerhaven; the others will be done in the new year."

Jenkin cry for help on reforms

By Anthony Bevins
Political Correspondent

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, has issued a cry for help to the Prime Minister and other Cabinet colleagues, asking them to rally round in defence of his plans for local government and rating reform.

A letter, dated December 8, points out that plans for ratemapping and the abolition of the Greater London and metropolitan county councils "are arousing considerable comment and controversy".

Mr Jenkin circulated a 46-page briefing document and says in his letter: "I cannot urge too strongly that colleagues should respond whenever appropriate to arguments which focus on their policy areas".

Mr John Cunningham, shadow spokesman on the environment, who last night published the leaked letter, said it showed that the government was "running scared".

The letter discloses that the Secretary of State put one of his junior ministers, Mr Williams Waldegrave, in charge of a special unit "to coordinate better our response to the well-organized campaign of opposition and propaganda which we face".

Extension of legal aid urged

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

Legal aid should be available to people appearing before all tribunals, the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee said in its annual report yesterday.

If there is not enough money to do that, tribunals dealing with personal liberty should be given priority.

The committee says: "Bail applications to the immigration appellate authorities are the only proceeding under the general supervision of the Council on Tribunals in England and Wales involving personal liberty for which legal aid is not available". Legal aid should be available in immigration cases where leave to appeal is granted.

The report says that the case for extending legal aid also to hearings before the Social Security Commissioners is unanswerable.

The Law Society's annual report on legal aid, published in the same document, says payments have risen from £9,130,231 in 1978-79 to £31,745,186 in 1982-83. The Law Society administered the scheme under the supervision of the Lord Chancellor.

Legal Aid: 33rd Annual Reports of the Law Society and of the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee 1982-83 (House of Commons Paper 137. Stationery Office, £10.75).

Roman skull killer guilty

Peter Reyn-Bardt last night began a life sentence for the murder of his wife Malika more than 22 years ago.

Reyn-Bardt, a former airline official aged 57, strangled his "marriage of convenience" wife in a row over money, hacked her body to pieces with an axe and buried the remains in the garden of his cottage in Wimslow, Cheshire.

A jury at Chester Crown Court took three-and-a-half hours yesterday to return an 11-1 majority "guilty" verdict after a three-day trial.

They rejected Reyn-Bardt's claim that he had struggled with his estranged wife after she attacked him and that he could remember nothing of how she died. He had denied murdering her between October, 1960, and June 1961.

The marriage of Peter Reyn-Bardt and Malika Maria de Fernandez had an air of theatrical fantasy from the start.

He proposed to her less than two hours after they met, when Malika, working as a part-time waitress, served him Russian tea in a Manchester coffee bar.

Three days later, on March 28, 1959, they were married.

Reyn-Bardt, then 33 and calling himself Edwin Rainbird, was a BOAC executive at Manchester Ringway airport. This was to be his downfall.

The two men were arrested for abducting young boys from the streets of Portsmouth for homosexual offences, and jailed.

After his release in January 1981, Paul Corrigan killed a young boy in Birmingham after a rape and torture. In jail, he asked to see detectives and told them of Reyn-Bardt's story of killing his wife.

They could not do so. Reyn-Bardt, now living in Knightsbridge, was questioned about his wife's disappearance and denied murdering her.

Then, on Friday, May 13, workers collecting peat for mushroom beds found a human skull in the earth 300 yards from the grounds of Heathfield Cottage. In October tests confirmed that the skull dated from about AD 410, and had no connexion with the case.

But in June police had again seen Reyn-Bardt and confronted him with the "evidence". He then admitted strangling his wife.

The NGA dispute

Speedy union chiefs fail to deter writ servers

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The sight of trade unionists making a quick getaway will not deter those with the job of serving legal documents on people who may not wish to receive them.

Like the "Mounties", they have a pride in getting their man. Some are solicitors. Others make a living from the job. Serving of documents is part of the business of Flowerdew and Co, legal agents, who celebrate their centenary next year.

Their manager, Mr Philip Corbett, said yesterday: "We tell them that the documents must be served personally on the defendant. That means by handing the document to the defendant, or, should he refuse to accept same in a reasonable manner, then service may be effected by leaving the document at that person's feet".

What technically counts as service has been called into question during recent trade union disputes. Two trade union shop stewards representing 2,300 striking Shell refinery workers went into hiding from officials trying to serve an injunction.

A workers' strike committee spokesman said an attempt at service was made, but the document was left on the windscreen of the car of the intended recipient.

This week, *The Times* reported that Mr Joe Wade, general secretary of the National Graphical Association, sprinted from a back door of Congress House as an official chased him down the street with High Court orders granted to several newspaper publishers pronouncing the next day's planned strike as unlawful. Mr Wade was driven away, leaving the official waving his documents at the kerb-side.

In 1963 he went to Portsmouth. There, in 1975, he met Paul Russell Corrigan. This was to be his downfall.

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NGA members lose appeal over expulsion

The National Graphical Association acted lawfully in expelling four members for alleged strike-breaking, a High Court judge ruled yesterday.

Mr Justice Skinner dismissed a claim by four managers at John H. Burrows and Sons, of Basildon, Essex, that the union had broken its own rules by not allowing them to give oral evidence before its appeal committee or national council.

The only requirement was for an oral hearing at branch level which was offered to the men.

• The National Union of Journalists is to seek leave to appeal against a High Court injunction outlawing a journalists strike at Mr David Dimbleby's Richmonde-based newspaper group in South West London.

• Mr Neil Kinnock yesterday refused to issue a Labour judgment on the National Graphical Association conflict with the Employment Act.

NHS plan to double consultants 'in disarray'

By Nicholas Timmins
Social Services Correspondent

Government plans to double the number of hospital consultants by 1990 are in disarray after restrictions on health service spending and manpower cuts, doctors' leaders said yesterday.

Figures compiled for the joint consultants committee and the British Medical Association's hospital junior staff committee show that, from the rate of expansion in consultant numbers increasing, it has fallen for the last two years and is set to fall still further next year.

The proposal to double the number of consultants was agreed by Mr Patrick Jenkins when he was Secretary of State for Social Services in 1981. The aim was to improve both the quality of patient care and to ease the growing bottleneck in the ranks of junior doctors who are trained to consultant status but then have to wait years for a consultant post.

Dr Frank Wells, secretary to the two committees, said yesterday that consultants numbers needed to expand by 4 per cent a year to meet the target.

But in the year ended last April, numbers expanded by only 1.8 per cent, the lowest growth for five years. A survey carried out by the junior doctors' committee showed that this year's growth would be lower, and next year's lower still.

The joint consultants' committee had delivered a strong protest to ministers through Sir Henry Yellowlees, the chief medical officer at the Department of Health, he said, and the issue will be put to the BMA's council next month.

"The commitment to consultants' expansion just is not taking place to anything like the degree promised or needed," he said.

In Oxford, Thames Valley officers were investigating a device left in a telephone box in Cowley late on Tuesday night. The device exploded sending the kiosk door into the road.

Yesterday the force said that no one had claimed responsibility.

The police do not believe the bomb as the work of a terrorist group.

BL criticized over tax avoidance

By Philip Webster
Political Reporter

BL failed to notify the Government of "substantial" tax avoidance deals in 1981 and 1982 resulting in a high cost to the Exchequer, the all-party Committee of Public Accounts reported yesterday.

Although the company is required under a memorandum to tell ministers of decisions that have important economic or political implications, it did not consult the Government as it considered the transactions fell within tax law and were consistent with its obligations to act commercially, the report said.

The Department of Trade and Industry has "depreciated" BL's failure to report the dealings because of the cost to the Exchequer of the extra funding obtained through the arrangement and "the undesirability of publicly owned companies taking part in tax avoidance activities".

The department has decided, however, not to tighten up the memorandum after receiving

Hospitals under threat

The North West Thames Regional Health Authority is studying options that include closing as many as three big district general hospitals over the next decade, including Barnet General Hospital in Mrs Thatcher's constituency.

The options are set out in an internal memorandum that has been leaked to the *Breath Health Emergency Campaign*.

The options include shutting acute services at the Westminster Teaching Hospital, Central

and Middlesex Hospital in Brent, Mount Vernon Hospital in Middlesex, which has a special burns unit, St Charles and St Stephen's Hospital in London and Edward and Barnes General Hospitals in Middlesex.

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Sale room

Chinese lacquer tray fetches £70,000

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

The strength of the top of the art market and lack of support below was starkly underlined by Christie's London sale of important Chinese lacquer and works of art yesterday, which scored an auction record price for red lacquer while 150 lots out of 315 in the sale failed to find buyers.

The record £70,000 was paid by the Gazzan Art Gallery of Hongkong for a square red lacquer tray of the early fifteenth century carved with a pavilion and figures in a landscape reminiscent of the old "willow pattern". The estimate was £45,000 to £60,000.

There was an exceptional red lacquer section in the sale, with a cylindrical box of similar date, deeply carved with a similar landscape, selling for £37,800 (estimate £30,000 to £45,000) and a marbled hexagonal ewer with the Jiajing reign mark

expected to fetch in the £6,000 to £9,000 range. They topped expectations to reach £10,450.

The sale totalled £528,358 with 37 per cent left unsold in cash terms. The stoneware proved the most difficult to sell.

At Sotheby's a clump of snowdrops met an unlooked-for degree of competition. They were painted on a board with an arched top by John Atkinson Grimshaw in 1862 and provided with an arch title, "Fair Maids of February". Christopher Wood, the London dealer who specializes in Victorian painting, paid £1,150 (estimate £1,500 to £2,500) for them. They are rendered with great precision against the brown earth and dead leaves of autumn.

There were two Edwardian still lives of fruit and wine glasses on a table, each

overseas selling price.

Austria 600, France 1,000, Italy 1,200, Germany 1,200, Spain 1,200, Portugal 1,200, Switzerland 1,200, Sweden 1,200, Norway 1,200, Belgium 1,200, Greece 1,200, Turkey 1,200, Singapore 1,200, South Africa 1,200, Australia 1,200, New Zealand 1,200, Japan 1,200, Hong Kong 1,200, Thailand 1,200, Indonesia 1,200, Malaysia 1,200, Philippines 1,200, Korea 1,200, Thailand 1,200, Indonesia 1,200, Malaysia 1,200, Philippines 1,200, Korea 1,200, Thailand 1,200, Indonesia 1,200, Malaysia 1,200, Philippines 1,200, Korea 1,200, Thailand 1,200, Indonesia 1,200, Malaysia 1,200, Philippines 1,200, Korea 1,200, Thailand 1,200, Indonesia 1,200, Malaysia 1,200, Philippines 1,

Banking ombudsman is backed by minister after consumer survey

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

A banking ombudsman to deal with customers' grievances is likely to be set up in response to the report on banking services published yesterday by the National Consumer Council.

Establishing an ombudsman is one of the key recommendations of the report, which nevertheless concludes that by and large customers are content with the services banks give.

A Market and Opinion Research Institute survey carried out for the council showed that nine in ten customers were either "very" or "fairly" satisfied with their banks, although most still wanted to see improvements.

Mrs Rachel Waterhouse, chairman of the subcommittee of the council which drew up the report, said yesterday of the customers' attitudes: "If you have a low expectation you are satisfied with what you get."

She said that the survey might suggest that nearly everything in the banking garden was lovely, but "banks should take note of the improvements that customers want to see, and the fact that building societies are already providing some of the things that banking customers say they want, such as longer opening hours".

The report, commissioned by the Government in the spring of 1982, was generally welcomed

by the banks. Mr Alex Fletcher, minister responsible for corporate and consumer affairs at the Department of Trade and Industry, backed the proposal for an ombudsman.

Although the council found that customers were in general highly satisfied and rarely complained, it identified and recommended on some areas where it saw scope for improvement.

Those included opening hours and bank charges. Many customers grumbled about difficulties in getting cash out of their banks and most wanted Saturday opening. There was also considerable dissatisfaction over the way bank charges were calculated and the lack of information on charges.

Bank customers with building society accounts also tended to find their building society more friendly and easier to deal with.

The main thrust of the council's recommendations is aimed at encouraging competition between banks, building societies, and other institutions which it sees as the best way of improving the service for customers.

The council's key recommendations are:

The Government should review the development of money transmission services within two or three years. If there are signs that building societies and

the Committee of London Clearing Bankers said last night that the banks had set up a working party to study the idea of a banking ombudsman. The banks would be considering individually the recommendations on bank charges.



Happy heroine: Sharon Pankhurst, aged 13 with comedians Eric Morecombe and Ernie Wise at Westminster Abbey yesterday. Two months ago Sharon saved four of her brothers from a fire (Photograph: Brian Harris).

Pocket TV supplies are delayed

By Bill Johnstone
Electronics Correspondent

The first shipments of the Sinclair pocket television set which was launched in September have been sent to customers in Britain nearly a month later than expected, principally because of production problems.

More than 5,000 have been placed with Sinclair for the two-inch flat-screen television.

It is unlikely that the backlog will be cleared before Christmas, but by the end of January, if the company realises its targets, 10,000 of the sets will be manufactured each month. A national advertising campaign is scheduled for January.

At the launch of his revolutionary television, the minute black and white screen of which is the result of six years' research and \$4m investment, Sir Clive Sinclair predicted that demand would outstrip supply and that the produce would initially be available only through direct mail order.

The television, which retails for £79.95, is less than a third of the price of its closest rivals.

Coin Street appeal lost by boroughs

By John Young

The Court of Appeal appeared yesterday finally to have cleared the way for the redevelopment of the Coin Street site on the South Bank in central London.

Lord Justice Waller, sitting with Lord Justice Watkins and Lord Justice Browne-Wilkinson, unanimously dismissed an appeal by the Greater London Council, the London borough of Lambeth and Southwark, and the Association of Waterloo Groups. Leave to appeal to the House of Lords was also refused, although the objectors can still apply directly to the Lord.

The objectors' case was that Lord Justice Waller said that no decision could ever be free from criticism, but that in his opinion the criticisms made in the case had no validity. He could see no prejudice in the Secretary of State's decision.

Since one of the last acts of the outgoing Conservative GLC administration in 1981 was to sell most of the freehold to Waterloo Groups, the latter's scheme can be halted only if the Lord's agree to hear a further appeal.

One scheme, submitted by Greycoat Commercial Estates, consisted substantially of offices and shops. The other, prepared by the Association of Waterloo Groups, a loose federation of local residents' associations, was rejected by the Lord's.

Murder case doctor is banned from driving



Dr Jones after the hearing at Maldon yesterday.

Firms in talks to save TV satellite

By Bill Johnstone

Representatives from the companies expecting to design and manufacture the BBC's television satellite met government ministers yesterday in a final attempt to ensure that the £350m project is not aborted.

Mr Leon Brittan, Home Secretary, and Mr Douglas Hurd, minister responsible for broadcasting, represented the Home Office, and Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, and Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister for Information, Technology, represented the Department of Trade and Industry.

Government advisers are divided on whether the BBC should be directed to sign a contract with the satellite manufacturers.

One driver in four fails checks

Police deny using random breath tests

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Sussex Police have denied that they used random drink-driving checks when they stopped motorists and required them to take a breath test at the start of a Christmas road safety campaign. One in four drivers failed the test.

The times and places of stops were advertised in advance, Mr David Bryant, a Sussex police spokesman, said.

A sample of drivers was stopped for a general check of vehicles under section 159 of the Road Traffic Act, 1972. This says that a driver must comply with a uniformed officer's signal to stop and give an officer time to carry out his duty.

If an officer suspects that a driver, when stopped, has alcohol in his body above the limit a test would be given.

A policeman in uniform may require a breath test to be taken when he reasonably suspects that:

A person driving, attempting to drive or in charge of a motor vehicle on a road or other public place has committed a moving traffic offence.

A policeman, who need not necessarily be in uniform, may require a breath test - if an accident occurs because of the presence of a motor vehicle on a road or other public place - from any person whom he has reasonable cause to believe was driving or attempting to drive or was in charge of a vehicle at the time of the accident.

A breath test may be required to be taken at or near the place where the requirement is made or at a police station specified by the policeman if there has been an accident.

A policeman may arrest without warrant any person if he has reasonable cause to suspect that the prescribed limit of alcohol is 35 micrograms of alcohol per 100 millilitres of breath; 80 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood; 107 milligrams of

alcohol per 100 millilitres of urine.

The presumption that the alcohol at the time of the alleged offence was not less than the evidence obtained may be rebutted if the accused person can prove that he or she had consumed alcohol after driving, attempting to drive, or being in charge of the vehicles.

It must also be proved that this alcohol was not consumed in the intervening period, the prescribed limit would not have been exceeded or the ability to drive not impaired.

There is no right to ask for a blood or urine test unless the reading from the breath analysis machine is between 35 and 50 micrograms of alcohol per 100 millilitres of breath.

The police, however, have the right to select which sample is taken.

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Woman can remain in kitchen

Mrs Jean Wright, aged 51, has won a legal right to spend her working life cooking and washing up to 150 inmates.

In a 43-page decision, a Birmingham industrial tribunal ruled yesterday that the Prison Officers Association was guilty of sex discrimination by threatening industrial action if the Home Office did not move Mrs Wright from her job as a kitchen supervisor, at the Warrington House detention centre for young offenders in Staffordshire, to other work in a women's prison.

The tribunal's reserved decision makes it unlawful for a union to strike or threaten action against a woman.

Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, for the association, had argued that Mrs Wright was a security risk because she could not search the male prisoners.

It must also be proved that had this alcohol not been consumed in the intervening period, the prescribed limit would not have been exceeded or the ability to drive not impaired.

There is a statutory defence when the alleged offence is for "being in charge", if it can be proved that the circumstances at the time were such that there was no likelihood of driving while the prescribed limit was exceeded.

The penalty for refusing to submit to a test without a reasonable excuse is a fine of up to £200. Procedures provide for a driver categorised as a problem drinker being medically examined and being permitted to resume driving only after effective treatment and cure.

The Hornsey coroner, Dr David Paul, directed a jury yesterday to return verdicts of "unlawful killing" on nine victims of Dennis Nilsen. Four of the victims were unidentified.

Brittan announces drive against rising drug abuse

By Stewart Teather, Crime Reporter

A British officer is to be stationed in Pakistan to monitor heroin production and a detective is to be seconded to the Dutch police to liaise on drug trafficking as part of measures announced yesterday by Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, to combat rising drug abuse.

Mr Brittan, speaking at a diplomatic luncheon in London, announced a Government strategy against what he described as "an alarming upsurge in the abuse of dangerous drugs".

Between 1980 and last year heroin seizures rose fivefold, while cocaine seizures this year are already five times larger than in the whole of last year.

The Times has been told that the number of new addicts registered by the Home Office rose by more than 40 per cent in the first nine months of this year and the figures are expected to continue rising.

Mr Brittan will not only try to stem heroin trafficking but also strike at abuse of a various pharmaceutical drugs. The measures have been under discussion for some time.

Mr Brittan said the British Government is already working closely with Pakistan - which provides 80 per cent of Britain's illicit heroin - and Britain is now planning to provide £180,000 to strengthen Pakistani policing.

For some time a British customs officer has been working part-time in Karachi. Next year a customs officer will be posted full-time in Pakistan.

At the same time a senior

British police officer will work in The Hague with Dutch police to fight heroin smugglers operating from Holland.

Mr Brittan also announced that the United Kingdom is to sign the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Drugs, which is aimed at controlling the movement of many pharmaceutical drugs often abused in the Third World. Britain has been slow to sign and was in danger of becoming isolated.

The Home Secretary announced that a synthetic opiate called dipipanone or Dicanol would in future be prescribed only by specially licensed doctors. The drug is widely used by young multiple drug abusers and is the centre of a large black market partly fuelled by over-prescribing doctors.

The Misuse of Drugs Act is to be widened to include some of the barbiturate drug family which are also subject to wide abuse.

Mr Brittan said he gave notice that he would not hesitate to issue a temporary order to stop doctors prescribing while they are under investigation for prescribing irresponsibly.

The Home Secretary said he would also seek to introduce legislation for the confiscation by the courts of the proceeds of crime. He said: "We must hit the criminals who profit from the misery of drug addiction and hit them hard."

The final section of the government strategy involves greater education to persuade people, especially the young, not to use drugs.

Wives earn much of home budget

By David Walker

Working wives, who some ministers believe should stay at home, contribute an important sum to family budgets, according to the latest official survey on how the British spend their money.

The average gross weekly income in households in which a married woman goes out to work full or part time is nearly a third higher than in those in which she does not have paid employment, according to the Family Expenditure Survey for last year.

The figures, issued by the Department of Employment, show that between 1981 and last year household income rose, after tax and national insurance, by 5½ per cent.

Households spent about £134 a week, divided as the table shows (below).

Comparing the income of households where the breadwinner is unemployed with that of working households, the survey shows a significant drop in their wellbeing between 1981 and last year.

The memorandum was from Mr Heseltine to the Prime Minister.

Return was sought "in the interests of national security", Mr Brown said. The documents bore origin markings and the newspapers' unauthorised copy could identify which of the seven originals was leaked.

In a sworn statement read by Lord Rawlinson, QC, for the paper, Mr Peter Preston, the editor, said he considered that the document, returned unauthorised "so that the leakage may be speedily identified and stamped".

The newspaper is resisting the move, claiming that it is entitled to protect its anonymous source under the Contempt of Court Act, 1981.

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In a sworn statement read by Lord Rawlinson, QC, for the paper, Mr Peter Preston, the editor, said he considered that the document, could be classified as a political memorandum between colleagues with no national security implications.

Judgment is expected today.

£102,000 for sex loss man

Mr Jonathan Kelly, whose sexual life was ruined in a car crash, was awarded £102,000 damages in the High Court yesterday.

Mr Kelly, a computer operator, was 17 when he suffered a "frightening catalogue" of injuries in the crash in 1977, Mr Justice Evans said.

"Here is a young man who

welcomed sex and wanted it."

The damages will be paid by the driver, Mr Leslie Evans, of Finchley Road, Golders Green, north London.

Mr Kelly, aged 23, of Gloucester Avenue, Primrose Hill, north London, said: "I don't have much social life now. I just work hard."

Mr Evans said: "I am

pleased with the result."

The contract signed by two women aged 23 and 35, said in part: "I further undertake and understand that any forms of sex play or intercourse will be with my full consent".

Family Expenditure Survey 1982, Department of Employment (Stationery Office, £14).

Average weekly household expenditure

£2,296

£2,19

£1,63

£2,85

£2,65

£2,05

£19,79

£15,37

£1,20

£1,15

£1,15

£1,15

£1,15

£1,15

£1,15

£1,15

Jenkin predicts lower rate bill for some

ENVIRONMENT

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, in a statement to the Commons, held out the hope of low rate increases or even cuts in rates for some people. This would be possible, he said, if local authorities budgeted to spend within the targets he had set.

Mr Jenkin said: Local authority current spending forms part of the total of public expenditure. For next year, the House endorsed that total in the debate following the publication of the Autumn Statement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The Rate Support Grant report which the public sector deals with these elements which form the level of local authority current spending. These are first, the targets for individual authorities which, in aggregate, relate to the total figure in the Autumn Statement; second, the amount of, and method of distributing Rate Support Grant to local authorities; and third, the arrangements for grant holdback for local authorities.

There is, of course, a fourth element – namely the level of rates and precepts these are fixed by each local authority in the light of its own spending decisions and of the impact of the other three elements.

In each of the last four years, local authority current spending has far exceeded the government's target of 1.100m, or around 6 per cent. Despite that, local authorities have not budged and have increased by a further 570m or 3.8 per cent.

In the context of our policy of holding public spending in check – a policy repeatedly endorsed by this House – such substantial overspending cannot be ignored.

In order to keep total public spending under control, other spending programmes have to be cut, including local authorities' own capital spending.

Those who complain loudest about cuts to capital spending are often those who have forced them on us by excessive current spending.

Of course, not all local authorities are equally to blame. On the contrary, around 80 per cent of all authorities are budgeting this year to spend at or within 2 per cent above target. The great bulk of the overspend arises from the decisions of the remaining 20 per cent of authorities to spend above those levels – some of them by tens of millions of pounds.

Indeed, no more than sixteen authorities are responsible for all but three of the total overspend. As the House knows, it is the Government's intention to deal directly with that problem of the highest oversenders in a Bill which I hope to introduce before Christmas. But that must be for another day. This statement relates to 1984-85, which of course cannot be affected by the proposed legislation.

For the next year, therefore, we must sustain pressure for real reductions in local authority current spending across the board. At the same time, we must make a greater distinction between the 20 per cent of local authorities who have made efforts to find economies and the minority of high spenders who have not.

Since August I have been consulting local authorities on the main proposals for next year's settlement. There have been two meetings of the Consultative Council on Local Government Finance; my colleagues and I have met a great many delegations from individual councils; and we have received written representations from many more.

As the House will see, we have taken account of some of the points raised with us in the settlement which I am announcing today. The main features are as follows.

Provision for local authority current spending for 1984-85 is 120,400m, an increase of over 1,000m on the provision made in last February's public expenditure White Paper. The aggregate of local authority spending will be just over 1,30,500m. This is 3 per cent higher than the total of targets for the current year. The basis of fixing targets remains broadly as I proposed in August.

The distinction between low spending and high spending authorities will be much more marked next year than hitherto. The targets for most low spending authorities represent a cash increase of 3 per cent over their budget this year. The

targets for most high spenders represent a cash cut of up to 6 per cent.

In the light of the representations since August, I am proposing three minor changes which will have the effect of increasing targets for some 107 authorities.

The three changes, which all operate to reduce the budget baseline and so increase the room for next year, cover budgeted transfers from housing revenue accounts budgeted interest payments representing more than 10 per cent of expenditure; and expenditure more than 2 per cent below target for 1983-84. The third change will give those authorities like Birmingham who budget well below target an incentive to continue to do so.

Even with these changes, the targets are tough for everyone, but they are much tougher on the minority of high spending authorities where the biggest scope for economies lies.

I now come to grant. Aggregate Exchequer grant for next year will be £1,900m, £90m more than in the current year. It is 51.9 per cent of total relevant expenditure compared with 52.8 per cent for this year. Although there are a number of technical changes in the method of calculating the grant to local authorities, these should have only a limited effect on the individual authority.

The third element in the settlement is the grant holdback. As the House knows, the system is intended to reinforce the pressure of block grant by making sure that the impact of overspending falls on ratepayers in local authorities and is accountable not on the general body of taxpayers.

For authorities which exceed their target, I confirm the pattern of holdback proposed in October. At ratemeter level, holdback will be at the rate of 2p in rate pounds for the first 1 per cent point of overspend: 4p for the second; 8p for the third; and 9p for each percentage point above that.

Next, on the grant. Certain spending is disregarded, that is, it does not count against an authority's spending for the purposes of the target and holdback regime. As this year, we shall disregard increased urban programme expenditure by partnership and programme authorities, and increased expenditure on civil defence.

For next year, there will be an additional proposal to propose a distinct increased expenditure on those community service schemes which are jointly financed with health authorities. I hope that this relaxation will be widely welcomed by local authorities.

The House will wish to know the impact of all this on the level of rates.

If local authorities budget to spend in line with the targets I have set, the average increases facing ratepayers next year should be very low. For some ratepayers there could be rate reductions. High rates are unfair to ratepayers, damaging to industry's competitiveness and destructive of jobs. It is now up to each local authority to take its spending decisions in the light of the announcements I have made and with a clear view of the impact of those decisions upon their ratemeter.

Mr John Cunningham, chief Opposition spokesman on the environment, (Copeland, Lab): How will he explain to local authorities that the black grant for next year represents a real term cut of 1.69% compared with 1983/84, without acknowledging a major increase in rates which will affect ratepayers?

Mr Jenkin: The extravagance of his language is unworthy of him. Hackney's problems are beginning to come home to roost. What the people of Hackney will object to is the appallingly high rates which will be charged on the majority of the community's property as a result of the council's profligacy.

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Israel hints officially it will not try to attack or kidnap Arafat

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Despite a string of bellicose public statements, the impression was growing yesterday that the Israeli Government would not attempt to attack or kidnap Mr Yasir Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organization leader once he was aboard a foreign ship being evacuated from the Lebanese port of Tripoli.

The first hint to this effect was given by Mr David Levy, the Deputy Prime Minister, who told the French newspaper, *Le Monde*, during an interview in Geneva that the Israeli Government did not have the least intention of attacking the PLO men once the evacuation was under way.

There was considerable anger in government circles here at Mr Levy's claim, which undermined the carefully orchestrated Cabinet policy of maintaining the suspense until the last possible moment by flatly refusing to give any public guarantee of the type being requested by a number of foreign governments.

One immediate result of what several observers were describing last night as "Mr Levy's gaffe" was to further reduce his chances of securing the quick promotion to Foreign Minister which he has been demanding from Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the man who defeated him in the party vote to find a successor to Mr Menachem Begin.

Senior officials tried to restore the menacing note of ambiguity to Israel's policy

which has so far disrupted all evacuation plans and led Mr Arafat to look towards the possibility of a dangerous overland journey to Syria rather than risk facing the Israeli naval force patrolling the rough seas outside Tripoli harbour.

But backing for Mr Levy's assertion appeared to come from Mr Mordechai Zippori, the Communications Minister, who told the French newspaper, *Le Monde*, during an interview in Geneva that the Israeli Government did not have the least intention of attacking the PLO men once the evacuation

was under way.

They regard Israel's policy of threats and brinkmanship as a calculated form of psychological warfare designed to delay the evacuation and to increase the chances of renewed intercommunal warfare between the two PLO factions. The Shamir Government has shown undisguised delight in the fighting around Tripoli to date.

On a point of principle, the Israelis are anxious to point up what they see as the hypocrisy of the international community in offering to guarantee the safety of men described by one official here as "a band of cut-throats". The Cabinet is also mindful of a strong current of public opinion which is passionately opposed to Israel's policy of "to give no quarter in the battle against the terrorists".

Mr Modai had not given and did not intend to give any promises that it would not attack Mr Arafat and his forces when they pulled out of Tripoli. He added ominously that Israel's policy was to "to give no quarter in the battle against the terrorists".

On the face of it, Mr Arafat could probably do without Syrian jets flying over his men although he must have realised that Syria would not put its aircraft into the air over Tripoli.

Lebanese officials close to the Israelis have been given to understand that Israel will not intercept a PLO evacuation but that Israel might well bombard the PLO positions in Tripoli before the Palestinian departure



Downing Street meeting: President Gemayel with Mrs Thatcher yesterday.

Comforting words for Gemayel

By Michael Biyavon, Correspondent

Mrs Thatcher told him what he most wanted to hear - that Britain's support would continue.

She increased his "great confidence" in Britain's conduct of its foreign policy, in his confidence in Mrs Thatcher, and in the strength of the Conservative party.

She also told him that Britain's efforts which were being made to achieve the withdrawal of all uninvited foreign forces.

President Gemayel might have had the incident in mind as he underlined the importance which he and his minis-

ters told him what he most wanted to hear - that Britain's support would continue. She referred to the "essential task" of reconciliation and to the restoration of Lebanon's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and Mr Michael Heseltine, the Defence Secretary, were present for all or part of the Downing Street talks.

President Gemayel later saw the Queen at Buckingham Palace.

British MEPs may prevent freeze on £457m rebate

From Ian Murray, Strasbourg

The European Parliament looks set today to vote to hold up payment of Britain's £457m budget rebate - but a strong lobby by British Euro-MPs of both parties may yet prevent the freeze from being implemented.

The Parliament's own budget committee is recommending that the money is held in reserve and only released against assurances from member-states that it is spent on true Community policies.

The intention is to release it by March, which is Mrs Margaret Thatcher's deadline. This would be after the next European summit, when the Parliament hopes that essential Community reforms can at last be agreed.

For the freeze to be legally agreed, a minimum of 218 Euro-MPs will have to vote in favour of it and last night it seemed unlikely that this total would be reached. The British Conservative and Labour members have joined forces to oppose the move and yesterday evening they were seeking support from their traditional allies in other countries to help them.

But the Conservatives, unlike Labour, are not likely to vote to reject the entire EEC budget for next year. Although many of them were outraged by the attempt to freeze the British money, the advice from Downing Street was that it would be wrong to risk the anger which would be caused if the budget were rejected.

Even so, some Conservative members were so outraged that they were talking last night of voting to reject the budget in protest at the discriminatory way in which they believed the Parliament had been advised by its committee about the British money.

Kohl 'go it alone' EEC call denied

From Our Own Correspondent

"A Foreign Ministry spokesman yesterday dismissed as "absolutely absurd" reports that the Chancellor Kohl had called for the six founding members of the European Community to go it alone in deciding European policy.

The spokesman said this was totally at odds with West German policy, which aims at agreement by all Community members, and which supported the package agreement worked out during the German presidency at the Stuttgart summit in the summer.

What the Chancellor now wants from all 10 members was a return to what he called the spirit of Messina, the town where the foreign ministers of the original six resolved to create the Community by their own enthusiastic commitment to progress in Europe.

He told parliament that the officers, redetained in August under emergency powers after being acquitted of helping to sabotage Zimbabwe's main base last year, would receive their pensions and any other money owed to them. The officers are Wing Commander John Cox and Air Lieutenant Barrington Lloyd and Neville Weir.

Christmas pay

Copenhagen (AP) - Fifteen mainly Latin American seamen prepared to fly home considerably richer than expected when a shipping company agreed to pay "pressure" from the seamen's union to share a £20,000 between them.

The union had threatened to blockade ferries over Christmas if no money was paid.

Brynnier better

Rome (AP) - Paul Brynnier, the actor, said here that he feels "absolutely fantastic" and is confident that the lung cancer has been arrested. "I'm booked in Baltimore this February in *The King and I* and we plan a run of about a year".

Baby rescued

Toronto (AP) - A six-month-old baby burned alive for nearly an hour was rescued by a man who dug her from a heap of soil mixed with rubbish and bricks after tearing faint cries. The baby's 17-year-old mother was arrested.

Runcie reticent

Peking (AP) - The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, met leaders of the anti-Vatican Chinese Catholic Church during his pilgrimage to China.

Player accused

Stockholm - A Soviet ice hockey player on a visit to Sweden with his national team has been charged with stealing 250 worth of goods from a department store. He will appear in court today.

Bargain riot

Johannesburg (AP) - Christmas shoppers crowding to get into sale at four chain stores crashed through display windows, injuring 30 and causing chaos among the racks. One of the injured was seriously ill.

Detainees freed

Dhaka (Reuter) - General Ershad, Bangladesh's military ruler, ordered the release of 200 political detainees held during recent anti-government unrest.

Fool's gold

Sydney (Reuter) - Australia's largest uncut sapphire was among diamonds, gold and jewels worth more than £2m taken by a confidence trickster who bought a reputable jewelry firm and advertised for gems to be put on exhibition. When he got the jewels he vanished.

Argentina to put three Presidents on trial

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

President Raul Alfonsin has ordered the trial on murder and torture charges of nine leaders of the military regime which seized power in 1976. He also called on Congress to enact a sweeping package of human rights reforms.

Promising to restore the rule of law in Argentina, Senor Alfonsin announced in a broadcast speech on Tuesday night that he had ordered the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces to try the first three military junta which ruled Argentina after the 1976 coup. He said he was also seeking the prosecution of seven left-wing terrorist leaders active during the early 1970s.

The aberrant human rights violations committed by terrorists and by the repression of them cannot remain unpunished", he said.

The military leaders, who include former Presidents Jorge Videla, Robert Viola and Leopoldo Galtieri, will be tried by the highest military court for having ordered and planned the campaign of repression against left-wing terrorists from 1976 to 1981. Between 7,000 and 30,000 Argentines are believed to have disappeared after being kidnapped by security forces.

In addition, President Alfonsin summoned an extraordinary session of Congress to consider seven legal reforms which he said were necessary to restore the broadest possible individual rights and the constitutional decision-making process.

At the top of the list of measures is the immediate repeal of an amnesty law passed last September by the outgoing military regime to protect itself from prosecution on charges of human rights violations.

There is also a proposal to establish the same punishment for torture as for murder, and to enact a law to protect democracy and the constitutional order, which sets penalties for any attempt to overthrow an elected government.

By reforming the Code of Military Justice the Alfonsin Government hopes to prevent the trial of civilians by military courts, and to place military officers who commit common crimes under civilian rather than military jurisdiction.

Diplomatic hope: Mrs Margaret Thatcher's note to President Alfonsin represents a "small light" towards the reestablishment of diplomatic relations. Senor Dante Caputo, the Argentine Foreign Minister, said yesterday.

Poltergeists under suspicion as nanny's mother testifies

From Peter Nichols, Liverpool

Carol Compton, the 21-year-old Scottish girl on trial here for attempted murder and arson, watched pale and dazed on the third day of hearings as her mother gave evidence about life at home in Aberdeen.

Mrs Pamela Compton, aged 40, was required by the court to answer only two questions. She said she found both of them "degrading". One concerned the quarrelling and the drinking habits of the girl's father, and the second referred to the first period of her life.

Before giving this brief testimony Mrs Compton was warned that she was bound to tell the truth like any other witness, despite the fact that she was the defendant's mother.

Her testimony followed the revival of interest in the possible place of poltergeists in the series of five fires which brought about Miss Compton's arrest in August, 1982 on the island of Elba, and her arraignment before the court of assizes.

Dr Guido Galligani, the presiding judge, asked Mrs Compton to speak clearly and simply, no doubt recalling difficulties in translation on the first day of proceedings. It was Mrs Compton herself who immediately encountered the obstacle of language and had to have the first question repeated.

Asked if she quarrelled in her daughter with her father, she replied: "Carol has never seen anything bad between me and her father."

About her husband's alcohol problem she said: "No, he didn't have any problems in his mind. He just liked his little drink. When he got a bit tipsy I would send the children down to the grandmother so that I could keep my husband quiet."

In answer to the question about her daughter's first menstruation she said: "I

remember it very well, as mothers do. It was just before her fourteenth birthday."

Asked if she did not mean when Miss Compton was 16, she said with a certain harsh挖苦: "She makes mistakes, I make mistakes, you make mistakes, Does this make us stupid?" Apparently during interrogations her daughter had spoken of the age of 16.

Earlier in the day a witness, Signora Ancilla Cecchini, the

grandmother of the child whom

Miss Compton is said to have tried to kill, recounted strange things that she said had happened at her home on Elba after Miss Compton arrived. A glassplate and a metal cake dish fell to the floor without apparently being touched.

Signora Cecchini recalled the remark she made at the time: "Good heavens, there are spirits in our home".

The hearing continues today.

Howe plea for British mercenaries

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

the Angolan civil war. Three of his colleagues, including the notorious "Colonel Callan", were executed at the time.

Last night the Foreign Office would not give details of how Mr do Nascimento responded to Sir Geoffrey's latest appeal.

The Foreign Office also announced yesterday that two mercenaries, Miss Emily Rowtree and Miss Eva Wark, believed to have been taken captive by anti-government UNITA guerrillas, were understood to have been freed and were in Angola.

The mercenaries were captured during the final stages of

fusion has arisen over remarks by Mr Arslan Humbaraci in London on Monday concerning a greater role for Cuban and Soviet advisers in Angola.

Mr Humbaraci, who said he was giving a press conference on behalf of the Angolan Government, made clear his personal opinion when he said Angola may soon ask for more Cuban combat troops.

Angola, the official Angolan news agency, yesterday denied his statement and his claim that he was a government adviser.

There are about 500,000 people in the Casamance and a number of them would like to

Germany given grim warning on birthrate

From Michael Biyavon, Bonn

Unless German women produce 200,000 more babies every year, the German population will fall from 56.9m at present to only 38.3m in less than 50 years, with drastic consequences for defence, education and the labour market.

This warning was given yesterday by Dr Hans-Joachim Waffenschmied, the Foreign Secretary in the Federal Interior, after he and Kohl had discussed the subject with working group members of Germany's future population.

For the past five years the Federal Republic has had the lowest birthrate in the world and the population has been falling steadily. Last year the birthrate was down to 8.1 per cent, the replacement rate, and remains stable. The rate will remain stable, divorce will be more common, with 25 per cent of all those married after 1970 getting divorced. Families will be smaller, with 20 per cent of all couples remaining childless, by the end of the century.

The Government has been worried about this and has been making regular statements and calls for more encouragement for couples to have children. A special inter-ministerial working group was set up to study the problem.

The consequences of the falling population will be disastrous, especially in schools, where the number of pupils has fallen 12.5 per cent by 2000.

It will be difficult to find enough people to get jobs and until 2000 there will be 30,000 teaching posts which will be unoccupied.

The working group has also recommended that the police, the medical and medical services, the armed forces, the interior ministry, the labour ministry, the post office, the telecommunications and the energy ministry should all be involved in the campaign.

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Casamance separatists jailed by Senegal

From Susan McDonald, Dakar

Relations with the Casamance, which are virtually cut off from the rest of Senegal, are the Casamance and feel that little has been done by Senegal to resolve these difficulties.

Travellers to and from the Casamance have to pass through both Gambian and Senegalese customs, besides the frustration of waiting for the infrequent ferry to take them across the Gambia river.

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Nakasone puts on white gloves for his most crucial campaign

From Richard Hanson, Tokyo

White gloves and loudspeakers are two prominent symbols of how Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) wages an election campaign. Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Prime Minister, made heavy use of both this week on the campaign trail as speculation mounts over how the party will fare in this Sunday's general election.

The main question being asked in Tokyo is not whether the conservative LDP will lose its absolute majority in the Lower House; that seems inevitable. What remains to be seen is how much of a setback Mr Nakasone can absorb without having his position as party leader undermined. He is therefore campaigning hard.

Soon after noon on Tuesday, the Prime Minister's convoy pulled up at the edge of a small park in Chiba city's District One, a traditional stronghold for the conservatives one hour's drive along an impressive industrial belt which stretches eastward along Tokyo Bay from the capital. Chiba illustrates both the LDP's strengths and, paradoxically, why conservatives are their own worst enemies at election time.

White gloves on, Mr Nakasone climbs atop a banner-festooned campaign bus, flanked by three local LDP candidates. His style is mildly demagogic.

He launches a vigorous defence of his policies, laced with appeals to Japanese national pride.

The crowd responds warmly when the Prime Minister calls for the most thorough reform of the educational system since the reign of the current Emperor

Mr Nakasone: Appeals to Japanese national pride.

Photo: AP

Truffle scarcity sends prices soaring

From Diana Geddes, Paris

The increasing scarcity of the truffle, known throughout the ancient and modern world for its delicate flavour and alleged aphrodisiac qualities, has caused prices to rocket. The gourmet's "black diamond" is now selling for nearly £70 a pound in France, compared to £45 last year, and prices are expected to rise.

In the Périgord, the best known truffle-producing region in France, the harvest this year

began 58 years ago, and the LDP, whose leader, Mr Kakuei Tanaka, the former Prime Minister, was more responsible than anyone else for forcing Mr Nakasone, against his better judgment, into a December election in the first place.

Mr Tanaka's conviction on October 12 for taking 300m yen (£1.4m) in bribes from Lockheed while in office touched off the events which tried, with limited success, to make Mr Tanaka and political ethics into the burning main issue of the election. Mr Tanaka, however, is virtually assured of reelection as an independent (he quit the LDP after being arrested in 1976) in his rural home district.

In Chiba One, the LDP held three of four seats before the election was called. Eight candidates are vying for votes this time. Three are from the LDP and shared the stage with Mr Nakasone. A fourth, former LDP member of the Diet, making a comeback as an independent, may be the spoiler for the party but paradoxically, why conservatives live is their own worst enemy at election time.

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In the Périgord, the best known truffle-producing region in France, the harvest this year

is expected scarcely to total 3 tons, three times less than last year, and a tiny fraction of the bumper harvests of the 1910s and 1920s when France was producing 1,500 tons of truffles a year.

The main cause of this year's particularly disappointing yield is thought to have been the dry hot summer. But the subterranean fungus, which is unearthed with the aid of pigs or, increasingly, dogs, is a capricious crop at the best of times, and has long resisted man's attempts to cultivate it, though man continues to try.

Over the past few years, farmers in the Dordogne and other calcareous regions have been planting young oak trees, among whose roots the truffle loves to grow.

France can no longer meet its own demand and now imports between 50 and 80 tons of truffles a year.



Plea that failed: Mrs Rosella Williams, who is a preacher, with her son Robert, pleading for his life before a Louisiana pardon board last week.

Killer executed in Louisiana

Angola, Louisiana (AP) — Robert Wayne Williams, convicted in the shotgun killing of an elderly supermarket guard during a robbery, was electrocuted early yesterday, the first execution in Louisiana in 22 years.

In his speeches Mr Nakasone, who is 65, clearly was trying to attract large blocks of floating votes, especially housewives who tend to vote conservative but tend to vote more frequently than men.

At one point, Mr Nakasone urged the generally chauvinistic men of his generation to treat their wives better. "Hold your wife's hand," he implored. He also pledged to channel profits from legalized gambling and other sources into cancer research. For part-time working women, the Prime Minister promised tax breaks.

His favourite theme, however, is moral education. Japan's schools, he says must repeatedly teach young children sound Japanese morals: respect for parents, honesty and respect for ancestors. Whether Japanese voters will teach the LDP a lesson in morals is still difficult to predict.

Guards accompanied Williams on the 100ft walk from the death cell to the shed where the electric chair sits. The switch on the chair was pulled four minutes later and Williams was pronounced dead after nine minutes.

The execution was delayed for about an hour by Governor Treen, a federal judge, an appeals court, and the Supreme Court refused to spare his life.

Williams's mother, Mrs Rosella Williams, a short, slender, soft-spoken preacher,

joined friends in a prayer vigil outside the prison gates. Family members had testified during pardon board hearings that Williams attended church regularly and sang in the choir. In his teens, they testified, he fell for with the wrong crowd and got involved with drugs.

Meanwhile, a convicted murderer who had been scheduled to die in Georgia's electric chair yesterday won a stay of execution; but a second condemned man in that state lost a late appeal for his sentence.

Australia softens nuclear line

From Tony Dubondu, Melbourne

The Federal Government has eased its hardline stand on the issue of nuclear vessels using Australian dry dock facilities and promised to consult with its allies and explain its position in an effort to defuse what has become a highly embarrassing issue for Canberra.

The new guidelines, released on Tuesday, would allow allied states carrying nuclear arms to go into dry dock in Australia in emergencies. They were outlined after the United States expressed concern over the denial of dry dock facilities to the British aircraft carrier Invincible last week.

Senator Gareth Evans, the Attorney-General and spokesman in the Senate for both the defence and Foreign Ministers, yesterday faced a barrage of questions in the upper house over the Invincible issue. He

insisted that the Government's policy was clear but might have to be explained in more detail to Australia's allies.

The Invincible issue and the involvement of the United States is particularly embarrassing to Mr. Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, who has been at pains to assuage Washington's concern over the election of a Labour government. The Prime Minister has also gone to great lengths on recent overseas trips to stress the importance that Australia attaches to its international defence obligations.

The original decision on the question of Invincible's access to dry dock facilities at the Navy's Garden Island Dockyard, in Sydney harbour, was made by Mr. Gordon Scholes, the Defence Minister, without reference to Mr. Bill Hayden, the Foreign Minister.

There is no doubt that the issue has given the federal Opposition a field day, allowing it to claim that the Labour Government is damaging both the Anzus Treaty and the five-power defence arrangements which include Australia and Britain.

There is no doubt that the issue has aroused US concern.

Mr. Stephen Lyne, a senior official at the Embassy in Canberra, saw the head of the Foreign Affairs Department as early as last Saturday, seeking clarification of Australian policy.

America keeps open space station option

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

The United States is likely to go ahead with preliminary work on a permanent manned space station. It would provide a base for lunar and planetary exploration and would be a factor for making new materials in a gravity-free environment. It might also have a role in the development of space weapons.

President Reagan is expected to announce funding for planning work on a space station in the budget for the fiscal year beginning October next year. *The New York Times* reported yesterday.

The sum set aside will be small, between £70m-£130m, but this will keep the space station option open while the Administration considers whether to commit itself to the huge expense of a full-scale space station programme.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) believes that the success of the space shuttle missions has helped to convince the Reagan Administration of the feasibility and desirability of an orbiting station manned by a full-time crew of astronauts, engineers and scientists.

There are hopes that the President, in his State of the Union message in January, will set out a commitment to a fuller space programme and try to arouse public enthusiasm for more exploration, in the manner of President Kennedy's call for a man landing in the 1960s.

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THE ARTS

After a period out in the cold, pantomime looks to be back in favour in London: *Aladdin*, *Babes in the Wood*, *Snow White*, *Peter Pan*... and, opening at the National Theatre tonight, *Cinderella*. This last is designed by William Dudley, interviewed below by John Higgins; while (right) our critics sample the joys of some of the latest offerings around the town

The 'Star Wars' of its time

Not for the National the television stars taking their annual bite at the stage or the fading divas of the cinema glad for a little work. Instead, according to their designer, William Dudley, they have been directing their attention to the Drury Lane Theatre at the turn of the century, when the pantomime was the event of the year. Dudley, who has always been a great ferret among archives and old volumes for his scenic inspiration, has been rummaging through Drury Lane prompt books and through the existing designs of Wilhelm, whom he reckons to have been the master of pantomime decoration.

If you look at a Wilhelm pantomime, such as *Jack and the Beanstalk*, there is everything there from a coloured postcard to an imitation of Turner. Some of the scenes have wonderment, others are pure cartoon. And that is how it will be at the National, where the Ugly Sisters occupy a pier-end vision of a bedroom, full of empty brown ale bottles. The magic pumpkin patch, though, appears at the end of vistas stretching the full depth of the stage.

Dudley agrees that the proscenium arch dictated the shape of every late Victorian set, giving the audience what he describes as "tunnel vision". "They were great at framing and at softening edges, whether of pictures or of ladies' clothes. But I think it has been overlooked that they put every available resource into the pantomime. In the 1890s it was quite usual to have 500 to 600 people employed in the theatre in one capacity or another. There were legions of poorly paid craftsmen. You took urchins off the street, put them into costumes so that they became elves - or something similar - and gave them a pitance. You can't do that now, thank goodness - although I wouldn't say that the fees at the National were exactly generous. And sometimes, when I go through those Drury Lane prompt books, I wonder just what we can expect them at. The answer, probably, is nothing."

"In these days the pantomime was at the very forefront of technical innovation. It wasn't something thrown on at the end of a busy rep season, as it so often is now. On the contrary, it was the *Star Wars* of its time, where you used every new invention. We're putting in gas footlights at the Lyttleton, because that is what a 1980s audience will expect, but a theatre proud of its pantomime would certainly have had electricity. Otherwise we're looking at the

William Dudley on his set for *Cinderella*

time before Dan Leno died and cinema took over the art of spectacle."

Cinderella uses 30 dropcloths, many of which will have been painted in the workshops of the Old Vic, erstwhile home of the National. It is one of the few theatres - Covent Garden and Sadler's Wells are among the others - which still has vertical paint frames where the canvas can be hauled up and down. Most others have gone over to the European method of spreading the raw material on the floor and having the scene painters get down on their hands and knees. Dudley, though, reckons that the use of the vertical frame will help him produce the effects he wants.

All this looks a little far away from Bayreuth, where William Dudley spent the first half of the year designing the controversial *Ring* staged by Peter Hall. Or is it?

"Actually not. Opera, more than any other form of theatre, has retained the old craft of painted scenery, of a filled and highly decorated stage. I suppose in our

time Lila di Nobile took the painted image just as far as it could be taken. She reached her apex in this country, it is thought, in the Stratford *Twelfth Night* and you can still come across eyes moistening over at the very mention of it. I didn't see that, but I did see *Love for Love* at the Old Vic. Then, inevitably, in the straight theatre the reaction set in: there were no cut gauzes and cut cloths any more, just a few props on a bare stage.

"So opera has been very much at the front of my mind while I've been working on *Cinderella*. Indeed, at times *Cinderella* is almost a pastiche of the rococo, so it is rather convenient that I'm also starting designs on a new *Rosenkavalier* for Covent Garden. Much opera and much pantomime is concerned with a sudden welling of the emotion. And maybe that's why both are so much in favour at the moment.

"In Bayreuth we used to talk about the *Ring* as the thinking man's pantomime. And it was a phrase which stuck."

"Cinéma vérité is very popular in the BBC," I understand", said Harry Watt, 70, who, with Basil Wright, directed *Night Mail* in 1936 and could rightly claim to know a thing or two about documentaries. He was in a train being interviewed by Arena about the feasts of yore and observed that cinéma vérité was what they were doing right then and expressed a pejorative opinion of it in a succinct four-letter word.

Arena were making *The GPO Story*; to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the famous film unit, and were undeterred by Mr Watt's disapproval. The result, in BBC1 last night, was a joy to watch.

Mr Watt recalled that in the Thirties they had known exactly

what they were going to shoot before they shot it. For *Night Mail* they had Benjamin Britten for the score and W. H. Auden for the script. Auden, said Mr Watt, had often had to rewrite but had been uncomplaining. He now regretted having thrown so much of Auden's work into the wastepaper basket but recalled one line for posterity. Talking of the rounded hills which mark the approach of Scotland, Auden had written that they were "heaped like slaughtered horses".

by Robert Flaherty on the way to persuading them to put up the money for a film unit which he told them was just the thing for propaganda. "A tremendous personality", remembered Basil Wright. The GPO Film Unit became the GPO Film Unit in 1933 and, after the outbreak of war, the Crown Film Unit.

An interesting witness was a former Special Branch man, Mr Arthur Cain, who was assigned to keep an eye on the film-makers whose left-leaning politics worried authority. He became fascinated by the business himself, being transformed into a "friendly bridge". His wife concurred. She had been John Grierson's secretary.

Dennis Hackett

Galleries
Restoration rights

The Clarendon Gallery, Vigo Street, has a fascinating loan show devoted to Cavaceppi (until December 22). And what, you might ask, are cavaceppi? They are, in fact, not a what but a who. Cavaceppi was the leading sculpture restorer of his day; which was the mid-eighteenth century. At that time all seems to have attached to elaborate restoration, sometimes amounting to total remodelling, of ancient sculpture; on the contrary, it was expected, and dealers in Italy found it very difficult to sell their discoveries, either at home or abroad, until they had been returned to a semblance of completeness.

This often meant adding a head or a limb, and at any rate the replacement of a nose or some other equally important detail. And, for that, Cavaceppi was your man. He had an enormous workshop, and ended up immensely rich, from virtually giving up original neoclassical sculpture and concentrating on patching genuine antiques. Many of his works in this time found their way to Britain, and the present show offers a fine selection, with an elaborate and scholarly catalogue which explains exactly what Cavaceppi did to which - including such famous pieces as the *Dog of Alcibiades* from Duncombe Park and the Lansdowne Diskobolos, transformed by Cavaceppi with an ancient but unrelated head and modern additions into Diomedes carrying off the Palladium. A small but important chapter in the history of taste is vividly illustrated.



Cavaceppi's transformation of the Diskobolos

Knoedler/Kasmin offers a small show of recent work by Gillian Ayres, supplementary to the big show at the Serpentine Gallery (until January 8). The Serpentine show too is mostly of work from the last two years, and both afford an opportunity of admiring Ayres' confidences with which Ayres dispenses large amounts of brightly coloured oil-paint on vivid abstract canvases with titles referring them, and us, to perennial literary themes. The earlier paintings which preface the Serpentine show offer a useful quick guide to how she arrived at this point, by way of thinner, more washy acrylic paintings getting ever farther away from any appreciably representational base.

John Russell Taylor

John Piper
30 November-22 January



Piper is perhaps best known for his romantic landscape paintings, but his work in stained glass, ceramics, fabrics and theatre design, now shown together for the first time, fully demonstrates his versatility.

Sponsored by Mobell

Admission £5.50 Wednesdays 10.30-5.30 Sundays 2.30-5.30
Recorded information 01-821 7228 Closed 23-26 December and 1 January

Tate Gallery
Millbank London SW1

Hongkong: Eighth Festival of Asian Arts
Marriage of East and West, old and new

Investment and confidence may be draining out of Hongkong, but the network of bamboo scaffolding over island and peninsula grows ever thicker as the deafening work of construction continues day and night. Shops, hotels, banks, metro-lines - anything that promises consumer returns still grows upwards and outwards, and in Hongkong that includes, very high on the list, temples of entertainment.

Over the past year two large multipurpose arenas have sprung: the Ko Shan Theatre, an ingeniously convertible 3,000-seat open-air and indoor auditorium built on an old quarry site in the To Kwa Wan area of Kowloon, and the 12,500-seat Coliseum, a vast inverted pyramid poised on top of the Kowloon-Guangzhou railway terminal. Both, like the proposed Tsimshatsui cultural complex, are projects of the urban council, and both opened just in time to house several events in the council's Eighth Festival of Asian Arts.

The eyes of the dragon were duly donned, acrobats fumbled, puppets squawked, and Cantonese opera, as popular as *Crossroads*, *The Archers* and *Gilbert and Sullivan* put together, drew reliably large crowds.

The Sonal Mansingh Dance Group from India presented performances from the north and south: *Odissi*, the sensuous, lyrical, curving dance of the north-east coast, with its Hindustani music, and *Bharata Natyam*, the more angular, strong-footed dances of Tanjore in the south, accompanied by the Tamil music of the Carnatic tradition. *Zither*, flute, and drum vibrating in a dense counterpoint of rhythm with the singer's nonsense syllables and the dancer's forceful footwork.

Sonal Mansingh, director of the Centre for Indian Classical

90-minute music-and-dance drama, as yet makes some of it points about alienation and cultural suffocation rather crudely, the work of the Indonesian director and ethnomusicologist Sardono Kusumo was particularly memorable.

Sardono's concert with the dying musical traditions of the Land Dayaks has led him to work with his students in the jungle villages of East Borneo. Land Dayaks has led him to themselves to Jakarta, and now to Hongkong, to take part in his productions. The result is a gradual revitalization of the Dayaks' traditional dance and music and a lively integration of their distinctive slow, twirling, squatting dance movements and gentle flute and zither music with the electro-acoustic and cinematic invention of the company's own composer and scenographer.

Sardono's syncretic approach, with its exploitation, disruption and modification of traditional forms and rituals, has made him a somewhat controversial figure. No less so is Ramon Obusan from the Philippines, who, like Sardono, uses his folklore troupe as a showcase for his research as a musicologist and anthropologist at the University of Manila.

If the Festival of Asian Arts is turning its face increasingly far forward in its programming of visiting groups, then its confidence for the more immediate future with neighbouring dramatists and musicians in the People's Republic of China seems no less optimistic. As more and more performing arts companies are being established in the cities of mainland China, so in Hongkong pianists like Yin Chengzong and orchestras and opera groups from Beijing and Shanghai are warmly received.

The festival's coup this year was bringing the Shanghai

Kunju Opera Troupe. *Kunju* is the oldest, most sophisticated form of classical opera in China, from which both Peking and Cantonese opera have evolved. It had its beginnings as a refined, elite form in the sixteenth century and, thanks to the pioneering and continuing work of the troupe's director, the 80-year-old Yu Zhenzai, is now rising from centuries of neglect, and more lately, persecution at the hands of Jiang Qing to a new popularity.

Hilary Finch

Royal Shakespeare Company's
MUSICAL OF THE YEAR
REALLY
'ENTHRALLING... UNMISSABLE TREAT'
Brilliantly Clever TIMES
Magnificent Spectacle DAILY MAIL
RSC
ADEPHI THEATRE

ACADEMY ONE Oxford Street: 437 2981
(ISABELLE HUPPERT in DIANE KURSY'S
AT FIRST SIGHT 15

"An original: about love, but also made with love... It gets you under the skin" SUNDAY TIMES
"The performances are superb" SUNDAY EXPRESS

ACADEMY TWO Oxford Street: 437 5129
Best Actor Award - Cannes 1983

GIAN-MARIA VOLONTE
in CLAUDE GORETTA'S gripping
THE DEATH OF MARIO RICCI PG
AGALA RELEASE

"No shortage of delights... Fine atmospherics, immaculately fluid camerawork and a towering performance from Volonte" TIME OUT
"Very much worth seeing... The cast is excellent and the atmosphere is perfectly pitched" GUARDIAN

ACADEMY THREE Oxford Street: 437 8819
(SIMONE SIGNORET - PHILIPPE NOIRET
L'ETOILE DU NORD PG

English sub-titles
"You could barely ask for a greater pleasure in the cinema" DAILY MAIL



Elaine Paige: high-tech crackle

Concerts

Vienna PO/Mehta
Barbican

played with more musical understanding, and more technical finesse, than were the Six Pieces, where the old rhetoric has gone haywire.

At the same time, this was a very different view of the Symphony from that offered by the Ensemble InterContemporain on Sunday. Where Boulez still sees Webern as the progenitor of the 1950s, serving him with a quick flick of the wrist that wrote *Le Marteau sans maître*, Zubin Mehta finds something more languid and decadent, even erotic, in the lie of the rhythm.

Given the beautiful sheen of the Vienna strings, for whom this work could have been written, the Symphony was returned to its own period of precious art deco objects in frosted glass. It also had a warmth and lilt that referred right back to the opening stages of the *Passacaglia*.

To some tiny degree the Six Pieces belonged also in that world, since Mr Mehta was using the reduced, clarified scoring from the year of the Symphony. But though I am sure other Webern conductors, notably Abbado and Boulez, are right to prefer the original version (the case is similar to that of Stravinsky's *Petrushka*, the first breath of the clear still mountain air that nearly all Webern's later music was to inhabit).

Instead of suggesting a pattern of growth, however, the juxtaposition presented a palindrome as tight and true as any Webern composed in his music. Parity this was a matter of performance. However minuscule the Symphony's gestures, they are at least recognizable as gestures to musicians trained and experienced in the classical-romantic tradition that more directly feeds the Passacaglia: both works, accordingly, were

Paul Griffiths

with poetry that is peculiarly its own.

The minuet for Job's family with its echoes of Ravel needed more tautness of rhythm, but otherwise the explicit visual images, the radiant Saraband of the Sons of God, the Pavane of the Heavenly Host, the displaced accents and angry clashes of Satan's music, were vividly presented. David Nolan's warmly lyrical solo violin for Elihu's dance was the most notable of several exposed instrumental passages played with keen effect.

John Lill was another soloist of distinction in a warmly romantic account of Rachmaninov's C minor Piano Concerto, picking up from a strangely ponderous opening and some trusty ensemble passages early in the first movement to make a virtue of familiarity in the rest of the work. Expressive phrasing was matched by the orchestra, who brought vigorous if sometimes raucous spirit to Dvorak's *Carnival* overture at the start of the programme.

Noel Goodwin

9

BOOKS

Recent books about Russian life and politics

The Big Brother state . . .

Life in Russia
By Michael Binyon

(Hamish Hamilton, £9.95)

Among the Russians
By Colin Thubron

(Heinemann, £8.95)

Michael Binyon spent four and a half years in the Soviet Union reporting for *The Times*. *Life in Russia* is a distillation of his experiences during that time, providing a valuable guide to an extraordinary society, alien in almost all its ways from our own. Despite restrictions placed on his movements and the rigid circumscription of society at large, he is able to conjure up a credible impression of life in the great socialist state. The result is an invaluable guide for any prospective visitor.

On the whole the impression is utterly depressing. Everything is characterized by boundless inefficiency, disorder, corruption, vice and repression. Everywhere there are shortages, mechanical breakdowns, administrative blunders of colossal proportions and profligate wastage. There is nothing which is not controlled, or rather obstructed, by a state administration which would be incapable of solving the problems of this vast land were it staffed by teams of Solons. As it is the rulers come up only with Five-Year Plans which have the effect of crippling the economy infinitely more effectively than any United States boycott could dream of emulating.

Michael Binyon provides many amusing instances of this bureaucratic confusion, such as the provincial newspaper whose disappearance from circulation passed unnoticed for a month, and the unlikely factory whose production rate featured so satisfactorily in government statistics for a year or more.

Life in Russia is readable and informative, and Mr Binyon is a skilled gatherer of out-of-the-way anecdotes and details which bring his wide-ranging survey to vivid life. He is less happy on the historical background, which occasionally

leads him into seriously misleading error. Thus he writes in emotional vein of the Soviet "war memorial" at Khatyn, being strangely unaware that this hideously vulgar edifice was erected in 1969 as a propaganda distraction from Katyn of infamous memory. He also believes that "the principle of sealing off the countryside from prying eyes is firmly rooted in pre-revolutionary practice". It is not, as a glance at an old *Murray* or *Baedeker* would have confirmed.

There is no danger of finding howlers of this sort in Colin Thubron's superb account of his solitary journey in an old Morris Minor across much of European Russia. His understanding of Russian history and civilization is profound, as is his perception of Soviet realities. His writing has an enchanted, lyrical quality which never falters. It is hard to think of a better travel book written this century. He has a way of absorbing and imparting atmosphere and feeling which is uniquely infectious.

Everywhere he went he struck up fascinating acquaintances, and clearly possesses a deep talent for inspiring confidences and eliciting those views and experiences which can illuminate a whole life in a few paragraphs. He neither obscures himself nor remains elusively detached; indeed, it is his own personality, warm, responsive, generous and deeply civilised, which acts as a perfect foil to the bizarre and melancholy land of his exploration. It is hard to think of a book more warmly to be recommended to anyone with the slightest interest in Russia and her people, or who simply wishes to read some of the very best English prose. A magnificent achievement.

Nikolai Tolstoy

... changes in Soviet policy

After Brezhnev

Sources of Soviet Conduct in the 1980s
Edited by Robert P. Byrnes
(Frances Pinter, £16.50, paperback, £6.95)

Predicting who will follow President Andropov is less important than determining what changes are likely in Soviet policy. This task was expertly tackled by some three dozen eminent scholars brought together by the Georgetown University Center for Strategic and International Studies to produce a comprehensive volume that presents a sound analysis of Soviet decision making. Seven working groups examined political, economic, social, and cultural trends; military forces; Eastern Europe and foreign policy.

Professor Bialer warns the US Administration not to push the Soviet leaders at a time of transition, since what they fear more than anything else is to be considered weak and irresolute, and they may therefore tend to overcompensate when challenged. Although declining living standards are no longer showing a steady improvement, the USSR faces increasing mortality rates, ethnic tensions, declining social mobility, failing moral standards, cultural isolation, and – not surprisingly – "growing pessimism". Soviet policy in Eastern Europe has become more sophisticated, but the authors believe on sound evidence that the Kremlin will continue to maintain its tight grip. Professor Adam Ulam rounds off this thorough coverage of Soviet affairs with a perceptive essay on foreign policy.

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The silent tipster

Tony Christopher, leader of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation and rumoured to succeed Len Murray as TUC general secretary is obviously very approachable to people with problems. The owner of a restaurant which he frequents recently asked his advice about a delicate financial matter. It appears that customers are increasingly adding the tip to their credit card payment when settling their bill. This makes the tips taxable, which they would not be if paid in cash. I would dearly love to know what advice Mr Christopher gave, but this particular tax man refuses to return my calls.

Times future

John Graham, the man who produced a publication called *Not Yet The Times* while the genuine article was off the streets in 1979, is producing a second edition to greet the new Orwellian year. It will bear the date January 1, 2004 and will feature some familiar-sounding columnists looking back on 1984 from their prison cells. Mr Graham describes his paper as "a broadsheet joke". It will be easy not to confuse it with our own more serious version of events since, as well as bearing a futuristic date stamp, Mr Graham's newspaper will cost rather more than 20p.

Milked dry

The diary is a regular feature of most newspapers and magazines. *The Journalist*, official organ of the NUJ, is more original. The column in its seventy-fifth anniversary issue about people and events goes under the heading "Dairy".

Sticky wicket

The early joint favourites for the chairmanship of the all-party Select Committee on Defence, Michael Mates and Michael Marshall, have more in common than their first names and initials. Both Tory MPs share a passion for cricket: Marshall is a former BBC cricket commentator and Mates is captain of the Lords and Commons cricket team. Marshall is also a prolific author. His next book is a history of Gentlemen v Players. In view of the shenanigans which have taken place over the choice of the defence committee's chairman, this might well be a subject on which he has acquired a new understanding.

BARRY FANTONI



"First Roger, you must be awarded an OBE before you can send it back."

Paid-for channel

Roland Rat, like other TV stars before him, has discovered the delights of free foreign travel. His three-week trip to Switzerland will be featured in 17 separate 25-minute episodes on TV-am over Christmas and the New Year. Luckily for TV-am, which was recently beset by unpaid creditors, the Swiss Tourist Board and Swissair were "very helpful" with the joint to Zermatt and Sanseas. A Swissair jet will be seen winging its way to the land of the yodel at the start of each episode.

Yardstick

The Metropolitan Police are taking their time about acquiring a more sensitive image, following the rather critical Police Studies Institute report on their performance. In the latest issue of their magazine, *The Job*, ex-Area Commander Don Saunders warns Met men that "without an aim in life after retirement, you could end up carrying the wife's shopping bag".

Vanguard

Publishing News carries a riposte by publisher Leo Cooper to bookshops which claim they cannot get certain books until after Christmas. "This is patent nonsense. Most publishers can deliver during the Christmas period with great speed and many go to ingenious lengths, like hiring vans for their reps" - replacing perhaps their usual bus or bicycle?

TalkalongNeil

It didn't really need a two-year £34,000 study of politicians by a research team from Warwick University to discover that Neil Kinnock "has a tendency to ramble". His Shadow Cabinet colleagues will deliver the same information for free. They are finding that Shadow Cabinet meetings are getting longer and longer because of their leader's habit of never using one sentence when three paragraphs will do. After a recent two-hour marathon, one member calculated that when added together Kinnock's contributions totalled 90 minutes.

PHS

The lion in the dinosaurs' den

Paul Routledge looks at the simmering conflict behind the attempt to censure the TUC leader, Len Murray

Mr Len Murray last night survived the biggest trial of his leadership of the TUC, but the union movement's opposition to the Government's employment legislation lay in ruins as a result.

The substantial majority recorded in favour of his repudiation of support for the unlawful one-day strike called by the NGA confirms the sharp trend away from the "direct action" school of policy in opposing legal curbs on the unions. It also demonstrates that the moderates have taken a firm grip on the direction of the labour movement, but the split in the general council also show that a substantial minority within the TUC does not accept Mr Murray's view that opposition to the 1980 and 1982 Employment Acts must be kept within the TUC.

The TGWU immediately said it would continue to support the NGA in its present strategy to win a closed shop at the Messenger group of newspapers, which has cost £675,000 in fines for contempt of court orders not to picket the company's Warrington plant.

The crisis precipitated by Mr Murray's repudiation of the expressed support for the NGA by union leaders finally put into sharp focus an internal conflict over the leadership style of the TUC General Secretary that has been simmering for months.

When they met three nights ago,

some members of the Employment Policy and Organization Committee were shocked at the first draft of the statement prepared for their approval. It scarcely mentioned the employer, Eddie Shah, but it condemned the violence on the Warrington picket line and Mr Murray insisted that it should be endorsed. "Does that mean we have to do as we are told?" asked Mr Moss Evans, General Secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, the largest affiliate to the TUC. The question was not without feeling. There is a powerful undercurrent of sentiment that Mr Murray is overreaching himself.

It was not always so. Elected

unopposed in 1973 to take over from the folksy but crafty Vic Feather, he was initially over-

shadowed by those two giants of the 1970s trade union world, Jack Jones of the transport union and Hugh Scanlon of the engineering workers.

When the "terrible twins" retired,

virtually simultaneously, labour

commentators could see no obvious

hers among the 40-odd union

leaders who then made up the

general council. That is because they were looking in the wrong direction. It was Lionel Murray who was to be the new lion of the labour movement.

He filled the power vacuum left by the departure of the Jones-Scanlon axis, unobtrusively at first but in recent years with evident relish. TUC policy is fashioned publicly at the annual congress each autumn and privately in the subcommittees of the general council. He dominates both.

When his personal imprimatur on a peace formula for the settlement of a strike - ironically by NGA members at the *Financial Times* - was called into question four months ago, he turned on members of the General Council and reminded them that they had all asked for his support in the dispute at one time or another.

He won the vote overwhelmingly, making the issue a test of the TUC's authority; and that authority was identified with his own personal standing in the matter.

The TUC rule book is vague

about the duties of the General Secretary and silent about the real scope of his influence. He is a full voting member of the General Council and of its major committees, though Mr Murray rarely votes and then usually only on internal issues such as the reform of the General Council itself.

The rules understate his real power. His staff, most of whom are intensely loyal, write the policy papers that go to General Council committees. Within the general parameters laid down by congress decisions, they effectively determine the posture of the TUC - and that public face has come to look very much like the views of Mr Murray himself. The collision yesterday was between the political thrust of his Congress House machine, together with its newly triumphant moderate majority on the General Council, and the unions who stick defiantly to the TUC's prelection policies of total hostility to employment legislation enacted by Mrs Thatcher's government.

Mr Murray reportedly reported the opposition of these class-struggle warriors as "the last twitch of the dinosaurs". He may now be ruefully recalling that the dinosaur as a species was comparatively successful, lasting rather longer than the unions have survived. "The dinosaur unions" were out to clip the General Secretary's wings.

The Government need not have worried about the public's response to *The Day After*. A MORI opinion poll has shown that CND support after the film was exactly the same as before - 30 per cent among those who saw the film, but only 26 per cent of the wider public. Most people seem to have felt quite rightly that they had learned little either about the horror of nuclear war or the case for or against the deterrent.

Yet the subsequent discussion on television raised real questions that ought to be discussed more clearly than they often are, and which were particularly illuminated by the former United States defence secretary Mr Robert McNamara.

The film had postulated a Russian invasion of western Europe, the escalation of the conflict, the firing of three tactical nuclear weapons and the final intercontinental exchange between the United States and the USSR. It is probably true to think, as Mr McNamara said, that if nuclear war was once started, at any level, it would escalate. If it began in Europe, it would almost certainly become intercontinental. There is, he said, no military use for nuclear weapons, except to deter.

That, however, raises the question at what point US or nuclear weapons might have to be called into the balance to deter the Russians from using theirs? How far is it conceivable that nuclear weapons could be drawn back into more distant and less risky reserve, to speak, by greater western reliance on conventional defence?

This summer, I heard Professor Irving Kristol, the distinguished right-wing American publicist, outlining in a lecture at the London School of Economics a fascinating case for changing the basic concept of the Atlantic alliance. The alliance, he argued, was defunct. It had been based on the proposition that the US should keep troops in Europe not to fight (250,000 of them is too few for that) but to act as hostages and to engage the US with its nuclear potential, in the defence of Europe. It depended on the proposition that if the Soviet Union attacked, the US president would ultimately press the nuclear button in Europe's defence. That theory served so long as the US had nuclear superiority, but it has collapsed with US-USSR parity.

It is one thing (he argued) for the US President to say from a position of nuclear superiority that he will send intercontinental ballistic missiles to destroy the Soviet Union if Europe is attacked. It is quite another to do so in the event of an attack on Europe if the result is the destruction of the US (as in the film) as well as of the Soviet Union.

Therefore, runs the Kristol argument, the president would not press that button, and the idea of relying on the bluff that just possibly might be too risky a basis for foreign policy.

Since the troops are not there to fight, and could not be defended, and the button will not be pressed, Professor Kristol argued that there will be increasing pressure in the US to withdraw them. Nor does he believe in the idea of graduated deterrence (an idea invented to spare Europeans the cost of more conventional weapons), which has

John P. Harris

A pastis master at deception

Clermont l'Hérault

I have recently been involved in a ruse to deceive the American public and earn a small fee as a model.

William, one of the local British exiles, is a professional photographer. He teamed up with a nice young American journalist called Frannie, who was doing a series of articles on our picturesque peasantry and their quaint habits - the kind of thing that syndicates well in the Midwest.

A particularly quaint habit in southern France is making one's own pastis, thus saving several pounds a bottle. Pastis is Pernod, Ricard and the like - the favourite green-yellow aniseed spirit that turns cloudy when your pour iced water on it. Like all spirit anise it is heavily taxed - more heavily than cognac or whisky, so that it costs almost as much as in Britain; *braiment*, a shocking state of affairs.

To do nothing, and let the growing house condition crisis become a problem for future governments, is the economics of the kindergartens. It will inevitably lead to demands for more mass-production houses to satisfy need. We shall be back to the 1960s. Can the Government really believe that it will be in power after the next election if it is laying in store so much trouble for itself?

These calculations are concerned, solely, with tackling Sheffield's existing housing stock, not expand-

ing it. Yet there are 35,000 households on the city council's waiting list. So current investment levels in Sheffield offer the undulating spectacle of houses collapsing in the street: of council tenants spending all their lives in unfit council property; and of people on the council waiting list ceasing to have any hope.

These alarming housing predictions come at a time when unemployment in the building industry is higher than in any other industry, when it is known that investment in the building industry can be a trigger for revival. The Government says there is no alternative to its low investment in housing. There is always an alternative. What is needed is a long-term housing investment programme which takes into account the annual rates of deterioration and tackles them. It should be financed over a five or 10-year period to allow the building industry to rebuild its skills and plant.

To do nothing, and let the growing house condition crisis become a problem for future governments, is the economics of the kindergartens. It will inevitably lead to demands for more mass-production houses to satisfy need. We shall be back to the 1960s. Can the Government really believe that it will be in power after the next election if it is laying in store so much trouble for itself?

In a recent interview, Manley said he would be willing to fight another election "tomorrow" if reforms were carried out. His party would stand to gain most by the expansion of the electorate - many of whom continue to be unemployed despite Seaga's示威.

Manley, whose office is dominated by a portrait of Fidel Castro and who is portrayed by Seaga as a dangerous Cuban Trojan horse, clearly lost ground after the short-lived Grenada coup. But he is likely to gain from the present crisis and perhaps win the next election, which is expected within a year or two.

What concerns many Jamaicans is that prolonged political tension will interfere with the task of rebuilding an economy battered in the 1970s by high oil prices, the world recession and attempts by Manley's government to socialise the economic system. They also fear a resumption of the kind of political violence that left more than 100 people dead in the 1980 election campaign.

Seaga argues that the parliamentary system allows him to call an election any time he chooses, and that it is the opposition that has provoked the crisis. He says that his course was necessary because the opposition had brought his integrity into question in reporting to the appointed body but there is no certainty they would accept.

Manley's party has decided to hold monthly public forums in a Kingston hotel to consider national issues, and to appoint representatives in local constituencies to keep in touch with local problems. He rejects suggestions that this sounds like a government in internal exile.

In the absence of candidates, the campaign has become a battle of documents. Manley brandished solemn pledges of electoral reform which he says were made by the government. Seaga took to rallics what he describes as a secret report from a conference of the opposition party outlining its weaknesses. Both sides cite constitutional law and historical precedent.

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P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

THE FALLING POUND

For several weeks the pound has been falling toward \$1.40. It touched fresh depths again yesterday before closing in London at \$1.4170. There is an air of faint disbelief surrounding these events: we have a Conservative Government which believes in sound money and has successfully pursued policies designed to curb domestic inflation, keep the balance of payments in order and generally help foreign bankers sleep at nights. They also seem fractionally unreal: the pound's latest fall from grace has not been reported under the once too familiar headline "Sterling Crisis". The counterpart of the pound's weakness is the strength of the American dollar and, counter-part so far, has been taken to be cause.

In a gravely troubled world, the dollar is seen as the only safe haven. The American economy is booming and acting as a huge magnet for investment capital. US interest rates are remuneratively high and because of the gorging demand for savings to cover the Federal Government's mammoth Budget deficit, they are not expected to fall. Against almost every expert prediction made in the last three years the dollar has risen. For fundamental

ALL ON THE RATES

The settlement of the rate support grant used to be one of the great annual feasts of political economy, when ministers quite consciously pushed money into the maw of local government in a bid to keep rate levies down. Yesterday's game was different. For one thing, the excitement was less. The event has now been superseded by the announcement, in July, of the government's ambitions for individual councils; then there is the November financial statement; and the scattershot pronouncements from the "maximalist" town halls about what they will spend and tax regardless of rate support grant movements. Yet the latest RSG announcement is important. It is the last to be couched in freedom before the sweeping powers contained in the rate-capping plan are presented to Parliament. It is significant because, perhaps for the first time, ministers are genuinely ambiguous about the effect of the settlement on rates. High rate rises themselves are the main reason for the rate-capping legislation; high rate rises could concentrate the minds of Parliamentary doubters; high rate rises would cost the government less than the propaganda team Mr Jenkins has established to sell his message.

The government presents the arithmetic as simple and in a sense so it is. With a grant total of £11.9 billion, representing 52 per cent of relevant council expenditure, average rate increases could be "low", as Mr Jenkins says. (A general pattern of rate increases about the level of inflation with some spectacularly high rises in London and the

DANISH EYES ON ULSTER

One of the better studies of the partition of Ireland was written by a Dutch geographer. So why not a Danish journalist turned Europolitician? And indeed Mr Niels Haagerup's report to and on behalf of the European Parliament is rather a good piece of work. Its inception was greeted by expressions of outrage from the Prime Minister and others who saw it her way. The European Parliament was held to be exceeding its competence, and it was assumed that an outside intervention from that quarter would be blundering and at the best unhelpful. The first objection was misconceived; the second has been falsified in the outcome.

Certainly the European Parliament is not competent to prescribe solutions for the problem of Northern Ireland or entertain proposals for constitutional change. Nor does it here. On the other hand as a Parliament it is entitled to follow budgetary expenditure wherever it leads.

Northern Ireland and the immediate region on both sides of the border receive special consideration in the agricultural and regional policies of the Community, extending also to social and industrial programmes. More than £400 million has passed through those channels in the past ten years. Not a large sum in comparison with transfers from Great Britain, but still considerable and growing. This attention is welcome in the province. The European Parliament is entitled to inform itself about the context in which these monies are spent; and it may, as the need for them becomes even more apparent, help to upgrade their priority

ial reasons not yet properly appreciated the world may now be back on the dollar standard it abandoned during the 1970s when the supply of dollars, not least because of the huge OPEC oil surpluses appeared far to exceed the demand.

A cheaper pound is not an unmixed blessing. It is useful for exporters and generally good for profits, both desirable at this stage of our own still tentative economic recovery. But devaluation can cause problems, if it goes too far, domestic inflation may go up rather than down as higher raw material and other import costs feed through into the prices of finished goods. Were the pound's situation to deteriorate significantly, this could change from a distant anxiety to an immediate political danger.

The problem would then be whether the Government should attempt to do anything to arrest sterling's decline. As long as all currencies were suffering from the dollar's resurgence, the temptation to act hardly existed.

Until the last few days the pound, by and large, has held its ground against the rest. This may now be more difficult as pressures to reduce oil prices continue to mount. Foreign

exchange dealers expect sterling to remain vulnerable to selling until the North Sea reference price is reduced in line with the lower prices in the spot market or the existing international oil price structure proves to be more durable than seems possible.

The practical options are limited. Intervention in the foreign exchange market, except to smooth out awkward wrinkles, would be futile as well as costly to the reserves. The flows of international capital are now too vast for any one Government or even several Governments acting in concert to divert. Higher interest rates would have to be considered but used only in, as final resort. There would be no more certain way of smothering economic revival. The best course in fact is to do nothing. We have chosen to live in a world of floating exchange rates and not have an exchange rate policy, even if such a thing were possible. And we must not be surprised if the United States Government, especially in the run-up to a Presidential election, is not prepared to manage its own fiscal and monetary policies to suit our own and the European book.

In my view it is a judgment which the Government should accept.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK BESWICK
House of Lords
December 9

Taking a risk on the Airbus

From Lord Beswick

Sir, It is unfortunate that Jock Bruce-Gardyne's article of December 7 seeks to discredit the A320 project without recognising essential facts.

Of course national funding of aero-engine and aircraft projects in the old private-enterprise days was open to his criticism. Launch did then was on a heads-or-tails, tails-or-lose basis as far as the private companies were concerned. The Concorde project was a cost-plus contract. It simply cannot be compared with the A320 proposal.

With nationalisation launch aid stopped completely for the aircraft industry. All BAE civil projects were financed from our own resources.

If Jock Bruce-Gardyne was right and the A320 proposal meant a return to the Concorde-type contract then there would be something in his argument. If the present proposal provided for the refunding by way of levy on sales then the article might be justified.

As I understand it, British Aerospace plc are seeking funds for the development, not the production, costs of the A320 and are prepared to undertake the refunding of that loan from company resources, not from sales of that one aircraft. In other words, they are prepared to take a very considerable risk on the basis of their market judgment.

In my view it is a judgment which the Government should accept.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK BESWICK
House of Lords
December 9

Grenada resignation

From Mr Anthony Rushford

Sir, Eugenia Charles, Prime Minister of Dominica, was an ardent advocate of human rights when opposition leader at the constitutional conference in London leading to the independence of her country, has recently stated publicly that I should not have been sent to Grenada by the Commonwealth Secretary General, Sir Shridath Ramphal, to be the legal adviser to the Governor General of Grenada. Her statement was presumably prompted by my resignation on a point of principle as legal adviser to Sir Paul Scoon and as the member of the interim government of Grenada responsible for legal affairs on December 4. At the same time I had also placed my resignation from my appointment as Attorney General in the hands of Mr Nicholas Brathwaite, the acting chairman of the interim government.

On the contrary, interest has been expressed in adding to the array of councils' activities. One of the noteworthy points made by Mr Jenkins yesterday was that certain areas of council spending would not be counted for the application of penalties for overspending in 1984-85. Disregarded are to be expenditures on inner city ventures, civil defence, and community care. In itself this adjustment by the government is only fair. But looked at in the round - and taken together with the significant rise in recent years in what are termed specific and supplementary grants by governments to councils - it points to yet another way in which the total of council spending pushes at the totals set in financial planning by the Treasury.

In his statement to the House yesterday Mr Jenkins broke a time-honoured convention of his winter announcements; he did not use the phrase "tough but fair". That is as it should be, because the settlement is in one sense much too fair. In another it is unfairly tough if it lends support to the government's project of pinning blame only on the ostentatiously high-spending councils for a general failure to meet financial targets.

A matter of title

From the Rector and Vice-Provost of the Royal College of Art

Sir, In the course of research for the exhibition "Albert: his life and work", currently mounted at my college, I came across the Prince Consort's speech to the British Association for the Advancement of Science given at Aberdeen in 1859. From his audience:

From among the political sciences it dench one which admits of being sever'd from individual political opinions, and of being reduced to abstract laws derived from well-authenticated facts. I mean Political Economy... A new Association has recently been formed imitating our perambulating habits, and striving to comprehend in its investigations and discussions over a still more extended range of subjects, in which is called "Social Science". These efforts deserve our warmest approbation and goodwill.

Who better to speak of Victorian values on this matter than Prince Albert? Thatcherologists may detect in her Secretary of State's decision to omit the word "Science" from the title of that research council responsible for social studies, some incipient U-turn to another and less resolute approach.

Yours faithfully,
LIONEL MARCH,
Rector's Lodge,
Royal College of Art,
Jay Mews, SW7,
December 13.

Lines of beauty

From Mr Charles Watkins

Sir, Mr Dean (December 9) is under a misapprehension when he calls for the revival of traditional tree avenues along the routes of suitable motorways.

Avenues of roadside trees, although traditional in parts of Belgium and France, have never been traditional in this country. Occasionally, as in the case of the famous lime tree avenue at Clumber Park, Nottingham, a public road does run between regular rows of trees, but this is most unusual. Traditional roadside trees, whether planted or allowed to grow naturally, are normally unevenly spaced.

Avenues of trees along the routes of motorways may, as Mr Dean suggests, add beauty and dignity to the scene; they would also increase the monotony of motorway driving and help to ensure that motorways became even more prominent in the landscape than they are at present.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES WATKINS,
The University of Nottingham,
Senior Common Room,
Hawthorn Hall,
University Park,
Nottingham,
December 9.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Promoting peace in interest of war

From Mr Miles Copeland, sen

Sir, As an old cold warrior with 40 odd years' experience at waging, alternately, both war and peace, may I offer some comments on *The Day After*, the film shown on ITV yesterday evening to dramatize the horrors of an atomic war.

Until recently, I have gone annually to Washington, Chicago, San Francisco and elsewhere to attend conferences of practicing political scientists who were particularly concerned with various problems of conflict resolution, the central one being the causes and prevention of armed conflict. At these meetings it was simply assumed by all those present, including a Soviet representative who sat with us twice in Chicago, that the so-called "peace movement" has traditionally been an instrument of war, never of peace.

If *The Day After* was right and the A320 proposal meant a return to the Concorde-type contract then there would be something in his argument. If the present proposal provided for the refunding by way of levy on sales then the article might be justified.

It first appeared in the China of 500 BC when the legendary "Sun Tzu" advanced the theory that victory in war depends less on one's own strengths than on the enemy's weaknesses, and prescribed means whereby to develop those weaknesses - among them probably the first "peace campaigns" in history.

The promotion of "peace movements" (on the other side, of course) was used effectively by Napoleon to soften up the Austrians, then later by the Germans in World Wars I and II, with the objective of keeping first Britain, then later the United States, out of the war.

German officers interviewed by SHAEF interrogators at Freising after VE Day were unanimous in their opinion that Hitler would have ended his conquest much earlier than he in fact did if only this century's most ardent advocate of the peace movement, Dr Goebbels, had not convinced him that his

House conveyancing

From the Chairman of the Bar

Sir, In the current upsurge of debate over Mr Austin Mitchell's Bill, it seems pertinent to observe that as recently as 1979 the Royal Commission on Legal Services (the Benson commission), having deliberated upon the matter for three years, came to the conclusion, by a majority of two to one, that the public interest in England and Wales (whatever might be the position in Scotland) would best be served by retaining, for the time being at least, the present restrictions upon conveyancing for fees or reward.

The interested reader is recommended to chapter 21 of the report (Cmnd 7648) for 43 closely-reasoned pages in support of this conclusion. Nothing, so far as I am aware, has occurred since then to invalidate that conclusion, which is still under consideration by Government.

The commission identified a need further to improve and simplify the present law and procedure relating to the transfer of land, taking into account in so doing the multifarious associated problems of planning, family and tax law, and suggested that the Law Commission should undertake this task. Such simplification, when achieved, would be welcome and could only serve to reduce the time and expense currently involved in buying and selling land and houses.

It is also disturbing that the drafters of the House Buyers Bill have apparently not thought it necessary, despite the clear warnings contained in the Benson report, to

make any provision for education and training in the qualifications demanded of their new breed of "licensed conveyancers". Nor is there any proposal to ensure the maintenance of ethical standards, proper accounting procedures or of any central fund to provide against the disbursements of a defaulting or dishonest practitioner, such as are part of the ordinary stock-in-trade of the solicitor.

It is surely premature, in the face of the royal commission's conclusions, to consider any modification of the present restrictions on conveyancing in advance of and independently from a comprehensive review and reform of the whole system of land transfer, including conveyancing.

Such a review is surely a matter for a full Law Commission study (taking into account all legitimate interests) followed by appropriate Government-sponsored legislation, rather than for a private member's Bill which, however well-intentioned, deals only piecemeal with a part of the overall picture.

Insofar as the proposals in the present Bill relating to conveyancing are intended to promote competition, then the recent relaxation of The Law Society's rules of conduct on advertising should go a long way to achieve this end, without the necessity for further legislation.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
MICHAEL WRIGHT, Chairman,
The Senate of the Inns of Court and
the Bar
11 South Square,
Gray's Inn, WC1
December 9.

It was told recently by an international referee that if referees interpreted the rules in this way they would no longer be invited to officiate. Unless the rugby authorities decide to adopt such a policy the great game will sink in stature and enjoyment for players and spectators.

Yours faithfully,
K. Y. CALNE,
University of Cambridge Clinical
School, Department of Surgery,
Level 9,
Addenbrooke's Hospital,
Hills Road,
Cambridge,
December 7.

Paddington derailment

From the Rev John Curtis

Sir, One can perhaps imagine a Swindon-trained railwayman leaving your correspondent (November 24) with the impression that the "buck-eye" coupling system is new. However, no fan of the London and North Eastern Railway could allow such a false record to pass unremarked.

Sir Nigel Gresley used them wherever possible; his predecessor on the Great Northern Railway as Carriage and Wagon Superintendent, E. F. Howden, introduced the Gould Centre complex to the East Coast main line in 1889.

Perhaps there were earlier examples in Britain. Certainly they are a century old across the Atlantic and - fortunately still saving life and limb.

Yours faithfully,
F. J. CURTIS,
The Vicarage,
Church Road,
Claverdon,
Warwick,
November 24.

Missing the bus

From Mr S. A. Watson

Sir, Readers of your Friday back page article, "Deserted village mourns vanishing bus" (December 9) may have noticed that the "vanishing bus" pictured looked suspiciously empty.

Any such suspicion is well founded: a similar service runs past my front door. The bus that plies is long and broad and capacious: it sometimes carries a passenger.

Yours faithfully,
S. A. WATSON,
The Paddock,
North Elmham,
Dereham,
Norfolk,
December 9.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

December 14: The Queen this morning opened Newham General Hospital, Plaistow.

Having been received by the Mayor of Newham (Councillor H. T. Philpot) and the Chairman of the District Health Authority (Lady Shireen), Her Majesty unveiled a commemorative plaque, met members of the staff, and toured the wards.

The Queen later opened St Bartholomew's Church and Centre, East Ham.

After unveiling a commemorative plaque, Her Majesty, escorted by the Team Rector, Parish of East Ham (the Reverend Stephen Lowe), toured the Church and Centre and visited the Standard Housing Association flat complex.

Afterwards The Queen visited the Passmore Edwards Museum, Interpretive Centre and Nature Reserve at the Church of St Mary Magdalene, East Ham (Curator, Mr G. Robertson; Team Vicar, the Reverend J. Fellows).

Her Majesty opened and toured the Centre, which is run by the Governors (Councillor J. J. Haggerty).

Lady Susan Hussey, Mr Robert Fellowes, and Lieutenant-Colonel Blair Stewart-Wilson were in attendance.

The President of the Lebanese Republic visited The Queen at Buckingham Palace this afternoon.

The Queen and Patron, this evening attended a Gala Concert arranged by Mobility at St James's Palace.

Mr John Higgs was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE

December 14: The Prince and Princess of Wales this morning visited the exhibition, *Albert, His Life and Work*, at the Royal College of Art, Kensington Gore, SW7.

Miss Anna Beckwith-Wood and Major David Bromhead were in attendance.

Their Royal Highnesses, Duke and Duchess of Cornwall, this afternoon visited old age pensioners in the Manor of Kensington.

Mr John Higgs was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE

December 14: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon today visited Cardiff, Wales, accompanied by Her Majesty's Lieutenant for South Glamorgan (Mrs Susan Williams).

Her Royal Highness, as President of Barnardo's, this afternoon visited the Day Centre at Ely, West Cambridge, and the Barnardo's Office in Newport Road.

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon was present this evening at a gala performance of *Humpy Dumpy* held at the New Theatre, Cardiff, in aid of Barnardo's.

Her Royal Highness, who travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight, was attended by The Countess Alexander of Tunis and Major The Lord Napier and Strick.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron and Trustee, this evening gave a Reception at Buckingham Palace for Friends of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

His Royal Highness subsequently attended a Supper given by the Margaret Pyke Memorial Trust (Chairman, Sir Douglas Black) at the Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, W8.

The Duke of Edinburgh later left Euston Station in the Royal Train to visit Cumbria.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A. Clive and Miss H. Hall

The engagement is announced between Alex, son of Mrs Susan Clive and the late R. C. Clive, of Newent, Gloucestershire, and Jenny, daughter of Sir Peter Hall, of Chelsea, London, and Miss Leslie Caron, of Paris, France.

Mr C. M. Andrews and Miss V. C. Thompson

The engagement is announced between Christopher Michael, younger son of Mr and Mrs F. W. Andrews, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, and Virginia Carole, younger daughter of Mr James Thompson, MBE, and Mrs Thompson, of Ash, Somerset.

Mr D. Cory and Miss R. Cory-Simpson

The engagement is announced between David Cory, of Blaistr, Petersfield-Super-Ely, Glamorgan, and Diana Cory-Simpson, of Little Orchard, Mill Lane, Beckington, Bath.

Mr A. P. Slater and Miss A. E. Maikred

The engagement is announced between Andrew Peter, only son of Mr and Mrs A. Slater, of Borth, Dyfed, and Agnes Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs A. J. Muirhead, of Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Christening

The infant son of Mr and Mrs John Cordle was christened Howard Peter Carl Gustav in Salisbury Cathedral on Sunday, December 11, by the Dean of Salisbury, the Very Revd Stephen Evans, assisted by Canon Michael Hodges. The godparents are the Revd William Hogan (for whom Lord Teignmouth stood proxy), Mr Anthony Bentham-Bohannon, Mr Rupert Corde, Dr Peter Siebenberg, Mrs James Macgregor, Mrs Martin Davies, Miss Marina Cordle, and Miss Lucia Cordle.

Archdeacon to be Bishop of Bradford

The Ven Robert Kerr Williams, Archdeacon of Nottingham since 1978, is to be the next Bishop of Bradford.

Mr Williamson, who will be aged 51 on Sunday, succeeds the Right Rev Geoffrey Paul, who died in July. The youngest of 14 children, he was brought up in Belfast, where his father, a Protestant, worked in the shipyards. His mother was a Roman Catholic. The archdeacon is married with five children.

Science report

Protecting plants from frost

By Clive Cookson, Technology Correspondent

A new strain of bacteria, produced by genetic engineering, may protect plants against frost damage. If so, the world's fruit and vegetable growers could save many millions of pounds worth of crops that are now lost when the temperature falls below freezing.

Experiments in the United States showed that bacteria living naturally on many plants make them vulnerable to slight frosts. The bacteria (of the genus *Pseudomonas*) are damaging because their cell walls contain a protein that is a particularly good nucleus for the formation of ice crystals. The crystals destroy delicate plant tissues as they grow.

Scientists at the University of California, Berkeley, found that plants normally vulnerable to temperatures only two degrees centigrade below freezing could survive 10 degrees of frost if all the

test it this autumn in the open air on a potato field.

However, opposition from environmentalists, who fear that the release of genetically engineered bacteria could have dangerous consequences, has forced the University of California to postpone the test until the spring. The scientists believe that there is no risk. They point out that mutations occur constantly in the wild; indeed there is a natural strain of *Pseudomonas* that does not cause ice-nucleation. But genetic engineering would be required to produce bacteria in sufficient quantities for commercial application.

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The simplest approach to agricultural frost protection might be to kill off all *Pseudomonas* in the crops, and some American researchers are trying to do so by spraying fields with a virus that attacks only *Pseudomonas*.

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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY
Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Casino merger game spins to a standstill

The Monopolies Commission has, much as expected, turned down the Pleasurama/Trident merger on the grounds that the threats it would pose to competition in London's casino land are against the public interest. Yesterday's decision, which has been accepted by Mr Norman Tebbit, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, takes both companies and the third party in this tangled affair, Grand Metropolitan, back to square one, as far as the gaming business in London is concerned.

The commission's verdict was not a majority one — there was one dissenting voice on the six-man team — but the majority clearly came down on the side of the Gaming Board, which opposed the merger, and against Pleasurama and Trident, whose £55m agreed deal to merge was first announced last March.

The stated reasons for the decision are that the merger would increase concentration of ownership in London's casino business to an unwelcome degree, and would also make it even harder for new entrants to join what is already a highly regulated business. On the face of it, this was a curious finding since the merger itself would, on the commission's figures, have produced a company with five out of London's 19 casinos but only 23 per cent of the "drop" or money staked. (This awesome sum reached £894m in London in the last year).

This is where Grand Met — which controls six casinos and 44 per cent of the drop — comes into the picture. The whole key to the commission's verdict is its acceptance of the argument that Pleasurama would effectively allow it to exercise undue influence over the new merged company, thereby obtaining control over two-thirds of the capital's casino business. The fact that Grand Met itself pressed this argument on the commission, arguing that

it would be against the public interest if it was able to extend its influence in this way — is only one of the more bizarre twists in this whole exercise.

As well as its 29.9 per cent interest in Pleasurama, Grand Met also runs two casinos, the Ritz and Cassanova, with Pleasurama as its junior partner. Relations between the two companies have not been easy recently, but Grand Met's chairman, Mr Stanley Grinstead, will clearly be happy with the outcome.

The Gaming Board does not like Grand Met keeping its stake in Pleasurama but, the Monopolies Commission says it is up to the companies to sort things out between them. This puts the onus firmly on Pleasurama: the verdict clearly means it cannot expand its casino interests any further until Grand Met's influence has been removed.

As for Trident, whose unhappy affairs have been in the headlines again recently, it was expecting the verdict. After the abortive management buyout of its safari and film interests and their subsequent sale to a private company announced last week, the company, whose shares were up 2p yesterday, continues to look like one looking for a bidder, although this was denied last night by Mr David Hudd, its new managing director.

The commission's one dissenting member, Mr N L Salmon, doubted whether Grand Met would be able to influence Pleasurama and the new merged company as much as his colleagues argued. He also believes the barrier to new entrants would not have been anything like as high as the commission makes out. In any case, Mr Salmon argues, the merger would not be against the public interest, even if Grand Met's influence is allowed. His reasons are that the casino business is excessively regulated, involves comparatively few people, and is not subject to normal conditions of competition.

Rules for a trading union

The Stock Exchange has got down to tackling the fine detail of how stockbrokers and stockjobbers may begin competing with the American banks dealing internationally in overseas securities.

A final debate on the draft rules is likely on Tuesday, after which a period of consultation will be needed. Proposed is the ability for brokers and jobbers to join forces in international dealing partnerships.

Part of the promise made by Sir Nicholas Goodison, the Stock Exchange chairman, to Mr Cecil Parkinson, former Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, was that the exchange would look much more internationally.

The basis of these untested broker/jobber unions are of paramount importance. This is the first example of what will effectively be dual capacity with brokers and jobbers allowed to give net prices, deal with anyone, but charge no commission.

The ability to act both as a principal and an agent in Britain has hitherto been restricted to Eurobond and financial futures dealers.

Rules covering these international dealerships may well prove a basis for other changes as the exchange moves

towards dual capacity at home, a move expected soon after the ending of the fixed commission system.

The exchange has already taken the first steps towards abolition of set commissions by introducing negotiated rates on overseas securities dealing.

Broadly, the new rules will insist that international dealerships will be confined exclusively to overseas stocks, will be a limited corporate member of the exchange, under the control of member firms with a majority of stock exchange members on the board.

Outsiders will be able to own up to 49.99 per cent of the dealerships and if one is formed as a subsidiary the exchange is likely to insist that the parent firm's entire international business be placed in it. The dealerships will have no London trading floor presence.

The contract note of the international dealerships will spell out that customers are not covered by the Stock Exchange's revised compensation fund.

Just who is and who is not covered by the fund introduces a much broader question. At times when other self-regulated markets are falling over themselves to follow in the exchange's footsteps by setting up such a fund, it would seem odd not to insist on such a fund.

NEWS IN BRIEF

EuroRoute 'ahead' in channel link

EuroRoute, the Anglo-French project to provide a rail-road channel link, claimed a significant lead over rival schemes yesterday with the announcement of the formation of a joint French company to promote the concept. Alsthom-Atlantique, the state-owned shipbuilding company, the Grands Travaux de Marseille, one of France's largest private sector construction groups, have joined forces to develop the scheme.

In Britain, EuroRoute has been promoted for the last two years by a consortium comprising British Shipbuilders, the British Steel Corporation, the Falgar House-Fairbrough Construction, John Howard and Raymond International (USA) and Lazard Brothers as financial advisers.

Bulmers, the cider maker, reported half-time profits up 27 per cent from £7.25m to £9.17m. But shares fell 23p to 248p when Mr Edmund Bulmer, chairman, said growth in the second half was unlikely to match the first half.

British Telecom said the Government will relieve it of a £1.25 billion pension deficit, dating back to 1969, when the corporation is privatized next year. The Government's proposal, tabled in a legislative amendment, means the pension liability will remain with a residual nationalized portion of the telecommunications industry.

Westland increased its profits from £23.9m to £36.1m last year on a turnover up from £284m to £326m. The dividend has been increased from 7.5p to 8.25p.

Investors' Notebook, page 17.

Gulf Oil is looking at the economics of acquiring Sun Oil but has not made any decisions. Mr James Lee, chairman told securities analysts

Banks' delay rules out Brazil loan this year

By John Lawless

There is now no hope that the rescue package, less than \$6.5 billion new money loan for Brazil can be made by December 31 — a date seen as essential only a month ago.

Today is the deadline for banks to commit themselves and, with more than 200 small banks still withholding promises, the 10 days of documentation processing could not be avoided.

My Guy Huntress, head of Lloyds Bank International's Latin American division, and deputy chairman of the 14-bank advisory committee on Brazil, returned to London yesterday from a Middle East loan-raising tour with Brazil's planning minister, Senator Antonio Delmi Neto.

He said: "I do not consider it by any means inconceivable that Brazil will be able to reduce arrears, right across the board, to comply with maturity dates within the crucial 90-day period."

Banks elsewhere fear that Brazil may direct payments towards the US at their expense and are refusing to bail out the Americans with help on a bridging loan that would allow

it to complete the rig with its own workforce at the Scott Lithgow site.

Although the scheme would reduce the number of workers at the yard from 4,200 to 800, it is believed that a successful completion would leave the yard ripe for privatization.

The scheme has also met with hostility from the unions and the local Labour MP, Dr Norman Godman.

He said: "It is unacceptable for the yard to close or for its workforce to be run down."

Capitalization by Britoil would mean closure for the yard,

particularly although draught sales

were static, while the tied pub houses also made profits.

Thistle Hotels, with a 90 per cent jump in profitability, made the most impressive showing.

Among the wine and spirits division progress was much slower, particularly scotch whisky sales.

The company is taking the opportunity of falling interest rates — borrowings and fixed expenses were cut £2.3m — to maintain capital expenditure on expanding canned beer sales and its expansion into hotels.

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With memories of the Britoil flop Jonathan Davis looks at the next big sell-off issue

The run-in to the Government's next great privatization issue, the flotation of Enterprise Oil, is now firmly under way. The appointment a few days ago of Mr Graham Hearne as chief executive of the fledgeling company is the most crucial step so far on the way to what promises to be one of the most intriguing - and delicate - sell-offs that the Government has yet undertaken. The next step will be announced shortly when the Government says which two stockbroking firms it has appointed to join Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank as its advisers.

A "beauty contest" to pick the two firms was held two weeks ago, and the fact that the Government has felt the need to take the unusual step of appointing broking advisers six months before the issue is scheduled to take place reflects its awareness that the ground for this flotation needs to be carefully prepared.

This is because Enterprise Oil is an unusual beast. The company was set up this year to hold the proven North Sea oil assets of British Gas, including the corporation's stake in five proven commercial fields and a clutch of exploration licences issued under previous administration.

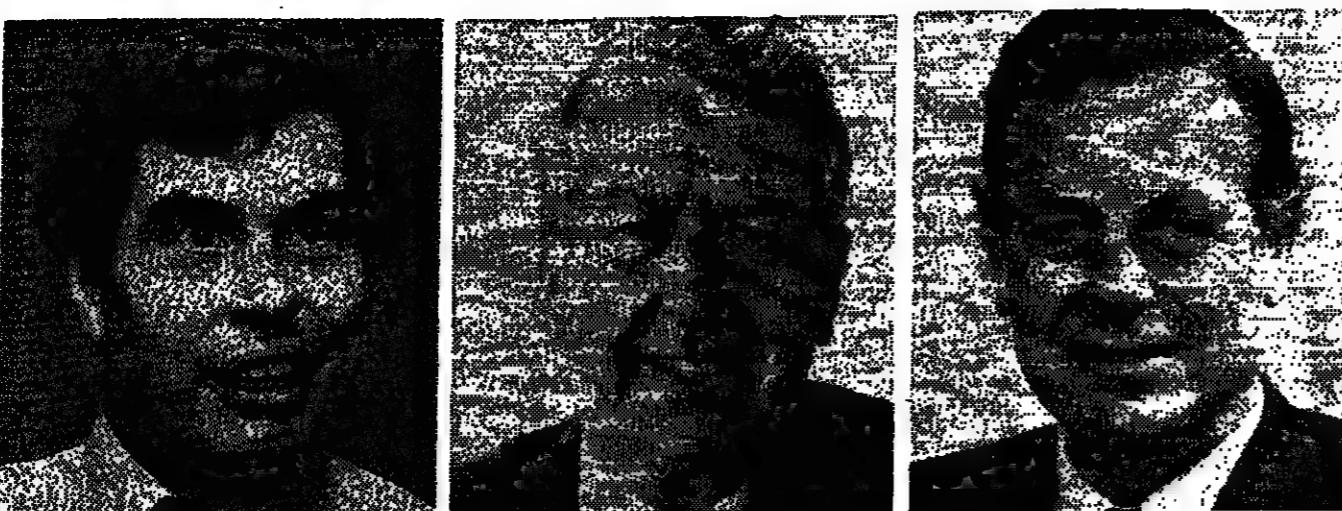
The Government's decision to force British Gas to dispose of its oil assets has been resisted fiercely by the corporation's board and its chairman Sir Dennis Rooke since the legislation was first announced in July 1981 by Mr Nigel Lawson, then Energy Secretary.

By a nice irony, the task of completing the privatization process has fallen to Mr Lawson's successor as Energy Secretary, Mr Peter Walker, a man who does not always agree with Mr Lawson on the subject of privatization.

It was Mr Walker who took the final decision three months ago to float the assets on the stock market as a single company rather than sell them off piecemeal to other oil companies.

Part of the reasoning behind the decision was a desire to create another middle-ranking British oil company, which, with luck, will be able to develop to fill the gap between the oil companies such as BP and Shell and the pool of smaller independent exploration companies such as Chatterhouse Petroleum, Clyde Petroleum and Tricentrol.

Enterprise Oil flotation must resolve problem of pricing



Graham Hearne (left), Peter Walker and William Bell: Crucial question is how Enterprise develops after flotation

This was a course that was also followed with the flotation of Britoil last year, an unhappy experience that has not made any easier the task of presenting the City with another state-owned oil company.

Memories of the disastrous underwriting flop with Britoil has left many institutions distinctly wary. Enterprise is in many ways a more attractive animal than Britoil, but the unusual nature of its origins have posed their own difficulties.

The company is rich in assets and cash flow, but as a newly-created - effectively "off the shelf" - company, it had no management until a few months ago and has no trading record as an independent company.

This marks it out from previous privatization issues, including Britoil. For example, Mr Walker and Kleinwort Benson will have to ask for a dispensation from the Stock Exchange to allow the company to seek a full market listing without having met the normal requirements for disclosure of financial information.

The only set of figures Enterprise is likely to produce before flotation is a *pro forma* trading statement covering the eight months from May to the end of this month.

The Government has been quick to find the kernel of a management team. For the last three months the company has been run from borrowed offices in Fenchurch Street under two seconded directors, Mr Peter Elwes, a director of Kleinwort, and Mr Julian West, a young, but highly able assistant secretary from the Department of Energy.

This was always intended as an interim move, and Mr Walker has now announced the appointment of Mr William Bell, a director of Shell, as non-executive chairman, and Mr Hearne as full-time chief executive.

One of the first tasks facing Mr Hearne, who will take over on March 1 at a salary more than £80,000 a year, will be to build a team of 35 to 40 people, including about 20 exploration specialists such as geologists. Financially, the final shape of

the company will depend on the way in which the Government agrees to establish its capital structure.

The company is generating positive cash flow at a considerable rate, but is not yet clear whether the Treasury will endeavour to claw back the estimated £80m surplus the company is expected to have accumulated since the beginning of May.

Next year the surplus is expected to rise to £100m at least, and continue rising before peaking at more than £200m in 1986, reflecting the build-up of production from its five main fields.

The figures illustrate that Enterprise Oil is going to be financially healthy, but since they exclude taxation, interest and any capital spending the new company makes, they are only the roughest of guides of its likely profitability.

ENTERPRISE OIL'S NORTH SEA PRODUCTION (000 barrels a day)

| Field | Share % | 1983 | 1984 | 1985 | 1986 | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 |
|-----------|---------|------|-------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Fulmar | 1.56 | 1.7 | 2.1 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.1 | 1.7 | 1.1 | 1.1 |
| Beryl | 10.0 | 7.5 | 7.5 | 12.5 | 12.0 | 11.5 | 10.7 | 10.1 | 9.5 |
| Hutton NW | 25.77 | 14.2 | 25.87 | 25.87 | 25.8 | 22.9 | 19.1 | 16.0 | 13.4 |
| Montrose | 30.77 | 4.3 | 4.0 | 3.4 | 3.1 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.5 | 2.5 |
| Mutton | 10.31 | - | - | - | 8.8 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 7.8 | 7.8 |
| | | - | 27.7 | 38.4 | 48.3 | 52.2 | 48.3 | 43.5 | 39.1 |
| | | | | | | | | | 34.4 |

Sources: de Zoete and Davies.

Enterprise on tax grounds. The company will also be bidding strongly for licences in the North Sea round, expected next year, and will be keen to acquire operator status, as opposed to its present role as a minority partner in the North Sea.

It will also be looking overseas. Apart from the tiny Arbroath discovery, Enterprise's batch of inherited North Sea licences is also thought to contain a potentially commercial discovery near the Forties field. Tax reasons again make it attractive for the company to develop a new North Sea field as quickly as possible.

All of which adds up to a handful of potential. Unlike Britoil, which was overburdened with assets and drilling commitments and burdened with a debt-heavy balance sheet, Enterprise looks like starting life with considerable freedom of manoeuvre and a virtually clean balance sheet. This is bound to be attractive to the market.

On the other hand, with no track record to look at and the promise of a series of deals coming to fruition immediately after the flotation, investors who buy the Government's shares will inevitably be taking a plunge into the dark.

Brokers in the City have,

meanwhile, been hammering home the point that the success of the flotation - and the company - will hinge even more than usual on what faith the institutions place on the ability of the management to strike the right deals at the right price.

Initial reaction to the first management appointments has been mixed. Mr Hearne, a Rothschild's man who moved on to be finance director of Courtaulds from 1977 to 1981, has a reputation as tough negotiator and deal-maker.

He admits that his technical knowledge of the industry is limited, and oil analysts and fund managers are divided about what sort of success he achieved in his two years at Tricentrol before his sudden resignation this year.

It is a tight schedule. The main problem for Mr Walker and his advisers at Kleinwort Benson, looks like being pricing the issue correctly.

Today's provisional estimates that the flotation will raise £400m may well prove to be out by some margin.

Financial notebook

New horizons for discount houses

The city has been alive with rumour and speculation over mergers and takeovers in the financial industry ever since the Government struck its deal with the Stock Exchange to exempt it from the requirements of the Office of Fair Trading.

But one corner of the square mile virtually ignored in the present feverish mood is the discount market.

This is rather odd because behind the arcanic image of the discount houses lies a wealth of talent and expertise in managing liquidity and dealing in short-term securities and financial instruments.

The popular notion that the houses are more akin to stately gentlemen's clubs which the Bank of England finds convenient to preserve may still contain a grain of truth in some cases. But the best of these employ some of the sharpest brains in the City and have grown through innovation and skill in taking positions in the markets in which they operate.

Traditionally, the discount houses have been the market-makers in Treasury bills and sterling bank bills - a market which is now worth about £12 billion. Several of them also make a market in certificates of deposit and they are dual-capacity operators in numerous other securities. Recently the three biggest houses have begun to deal in the increasingly popular floating-rate notes.

Given their expertise in short-term financial instruments and skills as market-makers, it is not hard to see how a discount house might fit into a broader financial group seeking to offer a full range of services in the securities markets to customers.

Indeed market-making skills are certain to be at a premium if, as many believe inevitable, the introduction of negotiated commissions on the Stock Exchange leads to dual-capacity trading. It would be easy to imagine, for instance, discount houses becoming market-makers in the short end of the gilt market if regulations allowed.

Of course any discussion about the future of the 10 discount houses returns eventually to the Bank of England which uses its 'bill' market dealings with the houses to regulate the level of liquidity in the banking system as a whole.

By providing lender-of-last-resort facilities to the houses the Bank enjoys a unique hold over this sector of the financial industry. Without it a discount house would not be able to operate.

It is no secret that the Bank would like to see more mergers among smaller discount houses to help balance the strength of the two biggest, Gerrard & National and Union Discount, which together account for about three-fifths of the market. But it is also no secret that the Bank has no wish to see the amount of capital employed in the market greatly increased.

The Bank's attitude has meant that rights issues for discount houses have in effect been ruled out, save in exceptional circumstances, and it has always been assumed that the Bank would never countenance a takeover of a discount house.

The houses, meanwhile, although some have attempted to diversify on a small scale, remain relatively small. They lack resources for significant acquisitions and because of the relatively low ratings and high yields accorded to their shares, it is expensive to try to buy into new areas through acquisitions.

Whether the Bank might countenance the takeover of a discount house in the future remains to be seen.

When Mr Jacob Rothschild's RIT & Northern announced it was merging with Charterhouse Group, which owned the accepting house Charterhouse Japhet, the Bank of England was certainly interested. But in the Bank's eyes the merger, which involved shareholders in both groups receiving shares in a new company, did not constitute a change of control of the merchant bank.

Why shouldn't discount houses follow the same route?

Peter Wilson-Smith

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Commercial property

Mixed prospects

For those considering overseas investment in 1984, two reports – one on the US, the other on Hongkong – provide a vivid contrast of the prospects. The Hongkong property scene remains depressed by uncertainty about the colony's future, but the US market could serve investors well.

Leanne Lachman, president of the Chicago-based Real Estate Research Corporation, reports that although a high volume of fund flowing into real estate from new sources will force prices up and yields down, investors will continue to favour real estate in anticipation of future appreciation in three to six years' time. But investments should be picked with care.

RERC forecasts a strong flow of equity funds from syndicators who are active in all land uses, from savings and loans, and from public and private pension funds. In addition, mortgage funds are readily available from insurance companies and banks are keen to continue to make construction loans at a time when corporate borrowing is low.

Much of the investment will be directed towards sales of existing property rather than new construction.

Recent overbuilding in most large office markets means that new office construction will be low in 1984. At present the strongest big-city office locations are San Francisco, New York, Boston and Los Angeles. But offices remain popular among investors, and RERC says that shopping centres have regained their former pre-eminence.

Prudential Assurance's ambitious 29m development of 22 Hanover Square in Mayfair has just been completed. The refurbishment, designed to create an ultra-modern office building is suitable as prestige headquarters for any big organization, and has 90,000 sq ft of air-conditioned office and banking hall or showroom space.

Letting agents Jones Lang Wootton are offering the space as a whole, for an annual rent of about £1.75m, or in floors, from 8,100 sq ft, at an annual rent of about £23 a sq ft.

The first phase of the Capital Interchange industrial and office development on the site of the former Brentford market has been sold for £3m to a private investor. The sale indicates a yield of nearly 6 per cent, which is believed to be a record, and reflects both the quality of the units and their location, and also the strength of the tax allowance investment market.

Hongkong, with the exception of 1987, looks like pre-

Christopher Warman

sents a very different picture. Knight Frank Kan and Baillieu began business in January this year, scarcely the best time for a new venture, but Mr F. Y. Kan, senior partner, has bravely said he is optimistic about the future.

He said the negotiations with Peking on the sovereignty issue and an oversupply of finished property had become apparent early in 1983, and the adverse effects were now even more marked. Since Mrs Thatcher's visit to China, the price of large domestic units and offices had dropped by 20 to 30 per cent; only smaller domestic units were maintaining their price level.

Mr Yan was nevertheless hopeful that present difficulties would soon be overcome now that it seemed progress was being made in the talks, and particularly bearing in mind the underlying strength of the Hongkong economy and the industrious nature of the Hongkong people.

He expects the property market to stay much the same in 1984, with cautious investment, little of it involving large sums. Depending on political developments, the next upturn could come in 1987.

"By then," he said, "the world economy should have substantially recovered. Hongkong's industrialists are usually able to reap more advantage in a boom than those of other developing countries. The only one of ours I think is slightly harshly treated is Raft (8st 10lb), who is set to give weight to Alphabat (8st 9lb), a Group one winner."

The Middle Park Stakes winner, Creag-an-Sgor, was given 9st, but his young French Derby winner, Teenoos, must be disappointed with the handicapper's assessment of 8st 8lb for his impressive Rockfield Stakes scorer, Mahogany, who is rated 3lb behind the top filly, Michael Stoute's Shoot Clear, and 2lb behind Lord Porchester's Satinette.

There was considerable controversy over the three-year-old classification in which the Northern Dancer colt, Sharpedancer, who ran only three times last season before retiring to stud, was given a rating of 93 (against a norm of 100), placing him 2lb above the flying sprinter, Habibti, who is most people's favourite to win the "Racehorse of the Year" award.

Defending the allocation, Mr Gibbs said that it had been very difficult to find Habibti, as a sprinter, to the best three and four-year-olds. In the Irish

Vincent O'Brien's unbeaten colt, El Gran Senor, has been rated the leading two-year-old of 1983, with 9st 7lb, under the international classification and Free Handicap, announced by the Jockey Club yesterday.

Geoffrey Gibbs, the senior handicapper, came down heavily in favour of the Dewhurst Stakes form in evaluating the respective merit of the juveniles, and placed Rainbow Quest, beaten half a length at Newmarket, in second place, 1lb behind El Gran Senor.

Guy Harwood's Lear Fan, who was a host of admirers with two flamboyant successes on Newmarket's July course, before landing the Champagne Stakes at Doncaster, was allocated 9st 3lb.

Jeremy Tree, the Beckington trainer, on hearing that Rainbow Quest, owned by the newly-elected Jockey Club member Khaled Abdulla, had been rated the top English-trained two-year-old, joked: "That means we will not be well handicapped next season!"

Tree said that it was early days yet to be thinking about classic trials, but intimated that the 2000 Guineas was very much on Rainbow Quest's agenda. The tote's prices for the first of the colts' classics are 6-1 Lear Fan, 8-1 El Gran Senor and 14-1 Rainbow Quest.

Chris Kinane, assistant to Guy Harwood, said: "We are quite happy not to be top of the handicapping with Lear Fan. The only one of ours I think is slightly harshly treated is Raft (8st 10lb), who is set to give weight to Alphabat (8st 9lb), a Group one winner."

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El Gran Senor (left) mastering Rainbow Quest in Dewhurst Stakes (Photograph: Chris Cole)

Derby Shareef Dancer had easily beaten Caricron, the French Derby winner and the English Derby winner, Teenoos. "You cannot take away from a horse what he has achieved, even if it was in one race," he said.

After her brilliant autumn campaign in France, Canada and the United States, Canada's All Along, was an automatic choice to head the senior international classifi-

cation. She was given a rating of 92, three in front of the Ian Balding-trained Diamond Shoal who, surprisingly, was placed ahead of Time Charter, who had beaten him in the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes at Ascot and also finished in front of him in the race.

Lord Porchester, chairman of the flat race pattern committee, announced that next year the Levy Board will contribute

£996,500 to pattern races – a reduction of £200,000 on this year's figure. However, the cut will be largely offset by a big increase in sponsorship, which will take the total added money to an estimated £3.14m, only £3,500 less than in 1983.

Several major changes in the 1984 flat pattern were announced, following a meeting of the European pattern committee in Cologne last week. They are: the William Hill Sprint championship, held at York in August, upgraded from group two to group one, the Jockey Club Stakes at Newmarket and Royal Ascot's Queen Anne Stakes from group three to group two.

The two big juvenile races at Royal Ascot, the Coventry and Queen Mary Stakes, have been downgraded from group two to group three, as well as Newbury's John Porter Stakes, and Ascot's White Rose Stakes has been removed from the pattern.

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TWO-YEAR-OLDS THREE-YEAR-OLDS SENIORS

| st lb | rating | st lb | rating | st lb | rating |
|-----------------|--------|--------------|--------|---------------|--------|
| El Gran Senor | 87 | Sharpedancer | 93 | All Along | 92 |
| Rainbow Quest | 88 | Habibti | 91 | Diamond Shoal | 92 |
| Lear Fan | 83 | Caricron | 90 | Time Charter | 90 |
| Long Man | 92 | Teenoos | 89 | Hyperion | 90 |
| Stobart Express | 91 | Teenoos | 88 | Lamourist | 89 |
| Greenside Flyer | 88 | Teenoos | 87 | Monogram | 89 |
| Slyos | 87 | Teenoos | 86 | Monogram | 88 |
| Almond | 88 | Teenoos | 85 | Valerie | 88 |
| Almond | 88 | Teenoos | 84 | White Rose | 88 |
| Gold and Honey | 88 | Teenoos | 83 | Zoetelo | 88 |
| Badger's Wall | 88 | Teenoos | 82 | Condado | 88 |
| Shoot Clear | 88 | Teenoos | 81 | Monogram | 88 |
| | | | | | |

Bregawn's fall lets in Prince Rowan

By Michael Phillips, Racing Correspondent

Yesterday was certainly a day of mixed fortunes for Michael Dickens. Dermot Browne was on the eventual winner, both said that they thought that Bregawn would have won.

It was a life of luck, however, that had, from the beginning.

But Bregawn was never very fast.

He started with the lastest jump of his trio, Prince Rowan, the hero of this year's Cheltenham Gold Cup, and the 2-1 fan favourite slipped on landing over the third last fence and fell when going like a winner. Rightman Man, Dickinson's other runner, just ran badly.

Later in the day, the 2-year-old Bay, another of the Dickens' trio, who won the Queen Mother Champion Chase at the National Hunt Festival at Cheltenham in March, got no further than the first fence of the Boston Pit Handicap Steeplechase, his first race of the season. With Grey Fusilier also falling there and Royal Mere refusing at the next fence the race became a formality for Clydesdale who won without even breaking into a sweat. Royal Mere and Grey Fusilier were remunerated to take the place money.

After the mists had cleared, Bregawn

had a chance to run in the Welsh National, but he had only 10 lengths to go and was beaten by 10 lengths by the last fence.

At Haydock Park today, still more potential should be gleaned from the field for the Burnley Handicap Steeplechase includes two who have already won the Cheltenham marathon, Corbiere and Peaty Sandy all being well, they will be in the line up again.

By finishing third yesterday Get Out Of My Way, ran well enough to fan the flames of hope that he will be a force to contend in the Welsh National at Cheltenham on December 27. Corals, who had that race promptly clipped his pen to 14-1 from 20-1.

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Midnight Love started second favourite for the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Newbury last month, but could finish only a distant fourth, 35 lengths behind Brown Chamberlain. Indiscreet Jumping was primarily 10-1, lame.

Asley House will need to jump much better than he did when he was last beaten by Easter Carnal at Newmarket last month, if he is to win today's race. Afterwards, it transpired that he had pulled a muscle in his back and I prefer to judge on the basis that he jumped well and Haydock last January when he won the Peter Marsh Limited Handicap. In that sort of form, he will be hard to beat, even with 12st.

Jetharts Here, who leapt the last fence in this year's Scottish National, will not run again this year, the owner-trainer George Kenilworth's second winner in the race.

The improving nine-year-old made it three wins from his four outings this season when easily beating Mullacurry by seven lengths in the Charles Vickery Memorial Handicap Chase, at Catterick yesterday.

Kenilworth, who saddled King Con to win the Scottish National in 1978 and Jetharts Here was just broken when he came to me. I was planning to retire King Con but he is so well at the moment that I will probably bring him out at Kelso on Monday.

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McCarthy signs for City to fill gap left by Caton

Manchester City have completed the transfer of Barnsley's defender Mick McCarthy for £200,000 and he will make his first appearance at Cambridge on Saturday. McCarthy said: "I am delighted to be joining a club of City's standing. I was interested in signing for Newcastle United but they could not match City's offer."

Billy McNeill, City's manager, has spent a big slice of the £300,000 fee he received from Arsenal for McCaffery, who played more than 300 senior games for Barnsley. McNeill said: "I needed somebody with a command and authority and I saw these qualities in McCarthy when he played against us. I am very conscious that he is my major signing, moneywise, since I came to City, but I am full of confidence that he can fill the gap left by Tommy Caton."

Fulham, who are third from bottom in the second division, yesterday strengthened their squad with the signing of the Queen's Park Rangers forward, Tony Sealy, and Liverpool's midfield player, Steve Foley, both on loan. They will play in Saturday's game at Oldham.

Sealy is on loan until the end of the season, with Fulham having the first option to sign him permanently. Foley, who has been in Liverpool's reserves for four years, is on a two-month term.

Brentford are giving a free transfer to Graham Wilkins, whose younger brother Ray is the Manchester United and England midfield player.

Luxembourg beaten by Greece

Greece 1 Luxembourg 0

Athens (Reuter). — A valiant attempt by Luxembourg to secure even one point before facing out of the European Championships ended in failure yesterday when they were beaten 1-0 by a careless, unprepared Greek team in front of 7,000 spectators.

Luxembourg put the accent on attack, but could not prevent the Greeks, who scored through Dimitris Saravakos in the 19th minute, from gaining control.

With Denmark already assured of a place in the finals in France next summer, Greece's only chance was the chance to move ahead of Hungary into third place behind England in group three.

Despite a fine display by Denmark, the Luxembourg goalkeeper, they should have won even more comfortably but squandered countless opportunities in front of goal.

GERMANY Sarapis, Alaventas, Karakasis, Michal, Galtzis, Samaras, Anastopoulos, Dimas, Karayannidis, Stathopoulos, Papadopoulos (Kofosis), Sarakas.

LUXEMBOURG Dehne, Miedan, Bous, Deneen, Mertens, Berndsen, Cetin, Veltens, Berndsen, Wagner, Langer, Maltz.

John McClelland, the Irishman who



Sealy: one of two signings by Fulham

Scotland seem to have lost their pride, McClelland says

By Clive White

Northern Ireland's twenty-eighth and final victory over Scotland at Windsor Park on Tuesday evening in the last home international championship is history. At the end of the season both countries must step out into the big wide world to fend for themselves and it is Scotland, as rich in resources — and not just mineral — for whom it is.

It is the ideal time for a fresh start, fresh faces north of the border after finishing bottom of their European championship qualifying group if Scotland are ever to justify the stubborn optimism we regularly hold for them. Jack Stein, after his fifth match in charge, must know it, too. He can lay claim to a 50 per cent success rate with 20 wins and 20 defeats, but his less illustrious predecessors, Alastair MacLeod and Willie Ormond, were more successful.

The job of an international manager depends upon instant communication and motivation and in this respect few men have coaxed the minds of players better than Stein. But on Wednesday, even with six members of Aberdeen's superbly successful side, there was the common failure of Scotland to express their inner selves never mind a sense of understanding. Every player was looking over his shoulder at the half dozen waiting to line behind them. They even failed to battle, which for a British player must be the ultimate sin. John McClelland, the Irishman who

captains Rangers, thought that they had "lost their pride."

So much was seen shaking his head in the second half as disbelief at what this horde of an Irish side can achieve. But the Irish strength is not merely one of continuity among its members but of dependability, character and outstanding individual excellence.

Stein is the archetypal modern Irish international. In November last year when he ripped apart the international reputation of Kalitz and scored the winning goal against West Germany he had not even scored for his club, Queen's Park Rangers, and was on loan to Millwall.

On Tuesday he showed that

precious ability to deceive not only his marker but the cover as well.

That was something his opposite number was doing. On the other side Cochrane, the man who supplied the passes for the goals of Whistlesey and McIlroy, turns out in the third division for Gillingham every Saturday.

The 2-0 victory confirmed Northern Ireland's position as Britain's outstanding performers these past 18 months with their victims including West Germany (twice), Austria and Spain. Bobby Robson, whose England side must tangle twice with these menacing "nobodies" in the World Cup qualifying round, remained upon leaving Belfast. "Obviously the Irish confirmed everything I knew about

them." There was a hint of more concern than diplomacy in that statement. Windsor Park will not figure early on England's fixture list when they come to discuss the order of those World Cup matches next year.

Billy Bingham, the Irish manager, would like to start their competition against Finland. "They finish their season in September and maybe we could catch them when they are tired." He also hopes that Italy will provide the opposition when Northern Ireland celebrate the opening of their £2 million North Stand, probably in August. They will need that kind of opposition if they are to come anywhere near filling their 6,800 seats. They must hope that they keep drawing England in qualifying groups.

The role of international manager has blended perfectly with the Perry Como roll neck sweater style of Billy Bingham. His record as manager has been outstanding by any standards. Let alone that of a small country. His job security is assured — or it should be.

Chris Marusik's ninth minute

goal against Yugoslavia at Newport on Tuesday night virtually ensured Wales' entry to the next UEFA under-21 championship. The Swansea midfield player scored the only goal of the game to end Yugoslavia's unbeaten record. After failing to score in their first three games, Wales are unbeaten in the last three

— and that is all that matters.

Yesterdays results

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Group Stage

Denmark 1, Luxembourg 0

England 1, Luxembourg 0

France 1, Luxembourg 0

Germany 1, Luxembourg 0

Italy 1, Luxembourg 0

Spain 1, Luxembourg 0

Wales 1, Luxembourg 0

Yugoslavia 1, Luxembourg 0

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CRICKET

India, out before lunch, get taste of oranges and eggs from crowd

Calcutta (AP) - Thousands of spectators boozed and threatened violence as India plunged to a humiliating defeat by an innings and 46 runs in the fifth Test against West Indies here yesterday. Armed police had to guard the Indians after they were all out for 90 before lunch - the lowest ever by India against the West Indies.

The state-owned television had to cut short an interview with the Indian captain Kapil Dev as worried police officers asked the television commentators to get indoors. The crowd threw oranges and eggs they had brought for their lunch, whenever they spotted an Indian cricketer. One of the victims of the 80,000-strong crowd was Sanjiv Gavaskar's wife, who was being interviewed along with Clive Lloyd's wife, an orange hit her and she had to cut short her interview.

The West Indies fast bowler Malcolm Marshall, ran through the Indian second innings, banting finishing with his Test best analysis of six for 37 off 15 overs, four of which were maidens. The man of the match Award went to Lloyd, whose maiden 161 not out in the West Indies first innings had largely contributed to the Caribbean victory.

The result was the culmination of a splendid fight-back by West Indies, who left India bitterly reflecting that they let slip a good position. West Indies were reflecting on 88 for five in reply to India's first innings, but recovered to make 377 eventually on the strength of Lloyd's innings. The team's fast bowlers swiftly pressed home the advantage, despite the prospect of any early finish. Eden Gardens was packed almost to its capacity when Malhotra and Shastri resumed.

It seemed for a while as if the optimism of Calcutta's cricket enthusiasts was justified as the pair held out for almost half an hour before Marshall broke through. Malhotra attacked anything that was not up to his bat and hit five fours to take his score from the overnight two to 30 when he recklessly cut at short ball from

Willey to the rescue

Port Elizabeth (AP) - The West Indian rebels yesterday drew their three-day match against Eastern Province. Needing 234 to win in 126 minutes and 20 overs, the West Indians had scored 181 for seven by the close of play.

Eastern Province, 72 ahead on first innings, and 25 for two overnight, collapsed and were all out for 161. Alvin Kallicharran, only an occasional spin bowler, took four for 26.

The former England batsman,

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General Appointments

HORIZONS

The Times guide to career development

A baby need not cost you your job

One of the most unfortunate and harmful myths in the workplace is the concept of the "career woman". Aggressive, single-minded and "unfeminine", she abandons all ambitions of family and idyllic home life to claw her way up the corporate ladder. All other women are seen, by contrast, as "unambitious", their interests revolving around home and children or grandchildren.

Although the myth clearly bears little resemblance to the reality of today's working woman, it has a powerful effect on employers' attitudes towards any woman who does not immediately return to work after having a child, leaving it in the hands of a baby minder. Few employment attitudes are conceived with the idea that women can be both mothers and career-minded. For this reason, most employers assume that the woman who leaves to bring up a young family is a lost employee. Contact with her ceases, a replacement is hired and the matter forgotten.

Now, however, there is a growing recognition that this attitude can be very short-sighted and that, even after a career break of several years, there are considerable benefits on all sides to former employees picking up again where they left off. Many jobs require a substantial training effort by the employer, an investment that is lost once the employee leaves. Besides, on average, women now work longer before they start their families, the amount and cost of this training is constantly increasing.

Instead of using that as a reason for discriminating against women in the provision of training, enlightened employers are recognising that they can recapture the benefits of the investment in such training by making provision for former employees to rejoin after a long break. There is an additional benefit in that the prospect of a return to work is an incentive for lower turnover, because women will be less tempted to emulate male colleagues and job hope for marginal increases in salary.

In theory, the main problem with such re-entry schemes is loss of skill. Technology and procedures change, people's knowledge becomes rusty

Enlightened employers are re-engaging women who quit their jobs for motherhood, says

David Clutterbuck

and out of date. But in practice this seems to be much less of a difficulty than it is generally represented to be. Margery Povall, a researcher at the City University Business School, London, who has studied this area closely: "While there are jobs where the length of the career break can be critical - for example some high technology occupations on which six months' absence can make re-adjustment difficult - they are very rare. Most people adjust very quickly. Former employees returning to banking jobs after 10 years, for example, usually slot in immediately. Some things may have changed, but there is still so much in any occupation that remains the same".

"Most of the new skills can be learned in a matter of days.

Among companies which have taken the issue seriously is National Westminster Bank, whose re-entry scheme has impressed other banks sufficiently for them to begin planning their own. The Natwest scheme was introduced partly to retain scarce skills and partly as an active rather than a passive approach to tackling equal opportunity issues. The career break is an important factor in the disproportionate ratio of male to female bank managers.

The scheme, a long-term aim of which is to attract more bright women into NatWest, gives former employees the option to return to work for a refresher period of two weeks every year, working normal office hours at their old job or a similar one, often as relief staff during holidays or when full-time staff are absent through illness. In some instances, re-entry is guaranteed. The bank has also contacted many former employees and asked them whether they would like to return to their old jobs.

NEWSROUND

Overall recruitment in November, allowing for seasonal trends, was slightly down on October. Even so, vacancies are running at the rate of 7 million a year - at least 25 per cent up on last year.

Vacancies flowing into Jobcentres, one third of the total, for the three months ending November numbered 200,000 on a seasonally adjusted basis. This was 24 per cent up on last year. The number of vacancies remaining unfilled was 42.3 per cent higher than last year, suggesting that many are for skills which remain scarce despite high unemployment.

Although only a small number were able, by virtue of their domestic circumstances, to do so, all were assimilated easily.

Another large employer carefully examining re-entry is the Greater London Council. It has had for some time provisions in its employment policies for women to return to work but they were rarely used, because hardly anyone knew about them. Now the council is to launch a big internal publicity campaign to make women aware of the opportunities to resume their careers.

Other initiatives being taken or discussed by the GLC Equal Opportunities Unit include provision of day-care facilities so that mothers can return to work knowing that their children are being looked after near at hand, special courses to help people gain new skills to qualify for vacancies, and a review of its "family responsibility leave".

The 50 place day-care facilities planned are insufficient for the 200 applications already received from employees who might otherwise have to quit their jobs when their babies are born, so an additional scheme to provide financial help with local nursery care is being considered.

Family responsibility leave - time off to look after sick children - may be made less restrictive, to reassure women that they will be able to take care of domestic emergencies without losing their jobs. For those who want to work only part-time while their children are young, job-sharing may be on offer.

There are, says Margery Povall, two basic approaches concerned companies can take. One is to assume there will be a lengthy career break and ease it through such retainer schemes as that operated by Natwest.

The other is to make the career break as short as possible by providing a range of flexible options for the working mother to continue her career, either part-time basis or full-time with help to mesh domestic and career responsibilities. Either way, most British employers have considerable changes in attitude and policy to make.

Philip Schofield

Some 70 per cent of all vacancies notified to the Manpower Services Commission are in the service industries.

The number of management, professional and technical vacancies advertised in PER's weekly jobs newspaper *Executive Post* in November was 1,954 - some 200 less than in October, but 23 per cent higher than last year. The number of vacancies remaining unfilled was 42.3 per cent higher than last year, suggesting that many are for skills which remain scarce despite high unemployment.

Philip Schofield

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A division of a Financial Services Group based in the City of London are building a team of young service and marketing executives to develop its private client an institutional business in the field of financial instruments.

Applications in writing are invited from confident, well-educated young persons aged 20-25. Candidates must have a high standard of numeracy and literacy; command of a second language would be an advantage.

No previous experience of working in financial markets is necessary, as a full training programme will be provided. Remuneration is linked to results and will be very high for the right person.

Please reply in writing to:

The Secretary,
The London Investment Trust plc,
Audley House,
9 North Audley St, London, W1

POOREST COUNTRIES

The World Development Movement, Britain's principal pressure group on Third World issues is looking for someone for a new post researching the changes needed in Britain's relationships with the poorest developing countries. The job will also include working with others to get these changes implemented.

A one-year contract, salary will be on the scale £7,022 to £8,986. Full details, a job description and an application form, returnable by January 20th are available from W.D.M., Bedford Chambers, Covent Garden, London WC2E 8HA. 01-582 3872.

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required for London publisher of collector's journal. Applicant must be well educated - preferably to degree standard - and have the ability to write good, readable copy. They must also be active collectors of either books, coins, stamps, cards or other areas of interest. Excellent starting salary and future prospects. Write giving brief details of age, education, qualifications, hobbies, employment and leaving the names and address of collecting group you belong to. Send your application, together with a sample of your writing to:

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT TRAINING BOARD ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

(£20,694 - £22,569)

Following the retirement of the present post holder, the Local Government Training Board will shortly have a vacancy for an Assistant Director at its offices in Luton. Besides being a member of the Board's management team the Assistant Director will be directly responsible to the Director for the development and resources division of the Board. The Division's functions include the identification of future training needs, training projects (such as the New Training Initiative), the Board's information and external relations activities, the development of training materials for use by local government, overall financial planning and management of the Board's financial affairs and its computer operations. The Assistant Director will also be involved in visits to local authorities for discussions with members, chief executives and chief officers.

The successful applicant is likely to be suitably qualified and to have had considerable management (including financial management) experience. Experience and/or knowledge of local government and/or the personnel training function would also be an advantage.

The post involves considerable travelling throughout England and Wales and a car allowance is payable. A generous removal allowance is available to assist with moving house.

For further details and application form please contact the Director (AD), Local Government Training Board, 4th Floor, Amdele House, Amdele Centre, Luton, LU1 2TS. The completed application forms should be returned to the Director by 6th January 1984.

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LONDON SALARY c£15,000

The Association, which manages over 4,600 properties in the Midlands, East Anglia, London and the South East has a vacancy for a Regional Manager to be based at its office in Victoria. The London office covers the City of London and surrounding boroughs in the north of the City with an area management office at Chingford. An energetic and enthusiastic person is needed to undertake this challenging position responsible to the Chief Executive for promoting new developments with public and private sector finance together with managing the existing housing stock of over 650 properties. An appropriate professional qualification is desirable and an ability to work under pressure and their own initiative is essential.

The post carries the following benefits:-

- Starting salary c£15,000
- Annual leave of 25 days plus additional days at Bank Holidays
- Contributory pension scheme

Applications in writing giving the names and addresses of two referees should be sent to:

Chief Executive
Orbit Housing Association
Queens House, Queens Road, Coventry, CV1 3EG

ORBIT HOUSING

Requires

A Bilingual Programming Analysts, (Senior Programmer)

Applicants should be prepared to take up residence in Rome, after an initial period of service in the foreign network requirements:

- Excellent knowledge of English and Italian.
- Specific on - location experience with the IBM 34 system and with the DOS/CICS operational systems.
- Age: maximum 35 years.
- Should be willing to travel frequently abroad.

Applications - including a detailed personal curriculum - to be sent within 31st December 1983, to Box 37/36, S.P.I., Piazza San Lorenzo In Lucina 26, 00166 Rome.

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A Texas Eastern Company

Texas Eastern North Sea, Inc. is the UK subsidiary of a major US energy corporation and is responsible for the management of extensive exploration and production interests in the UK sector of the North Sea. Having been active in the North Sea since the early 1960's, Texas Eastern's current portfolio of properties includes working interests in the Beryl, Montrose, Fulmar, Hutton, Hutton, Murchison, Leman and Indefatigable fields. In addition to these proven discoveries, the Company is participating in the delineation of several known discoveries and embarking upon the most aggressive exploration programme in the history of its North Sea involvement. In conjunction with these efforts the Company seeks to recruit the following employees for its London headquarters:

PRODUCTION/DRILLING ENGINEER

Candidates should hold a good Honours degree in engineering, preferably petroleum engineering, coupled with at least four years drilling and production experience gained in the North Sea. Reporting to the Chief Engineer, you will be responsible for supervising a staff of reservoir and production engineers involved in the management of our North Sea assets.

CHIEF GEOLOGIST

Candidates should hold a good Honours degree in geology/coupled with at least ten years relevant experience, a majority of which should have been gained with a major oil company in the North Sea. Reporting to the Manager of Exploration, you will participate in regional studies to identify and recommend the acquisition of new acreage and will also carry out detailed studies on our existing UK licences.

The company offers an attractive remuneration package which includes a highly subsidised membership of BUPA and a non-contributory pension scheme.

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BERKELEY SQUARE,
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At Hunterskill South based in Maidenhead you will have the opportunity to become part of a rapidly growing business selling specialist computer staff on a contract basis - Operators and Programmers - in the Thames Valley. Ideally you'll be aged 25-30,

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear

BBC 1

6.00 Ceefax AM.
6.30 Breakfast Time with Frank Bough and Selina Scott. News at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 with headlines on the quarters; regional news, weather and traffic at 6.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; television preview at 6.55; a look at the morning papers at 7.18 and 8.18; horoscopes at 8.25; medical matters and Glyn Christian's cookery advice between 8.30 and 9.00.

9.00 Mastermind International. Representatives of Ireland, Australia, New Zealand and the UK are grilled by Mr Magnusson at the Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford (r) 9.35. Closedown 10.30 Play School (r) 10.55 Closedown

12.30 News After Noon with Richard Whitmore and Frances Coverdale. The weather prospects come from Michael Fish 12.57 Regional news (London and SE only); financial report followed by news from the City 1.00. Pebbles Mill at One. Music and conversation from the foyer of the studios 1.45 Postman Pat

2.20 Film: *Tender Comrade* (1943) starring Ginger Rogers and Robert Ryan. The story of five girls who, while their husbands are away fighting World War Two, pool their resources and set up houses together. Directed by David Hemmings 3.35 *Trix Avery Double Bill*. MGM cartoons. Bad Luck Blackie and Big Heel Watha 3.53 Regional news (not London)

3.55 Play School presented by Clive Ashcroft 4.20 The Adventures of Batman and Robin. A cartoon 4.25 *Jackman*. Nurses Hughes with another excerpt from *The Making of Fingers Fingern* 4.40 *Spider-Man and his Amazing Friends* 5.05 John Craven's *Newswatch* 5.10 *Blue Peter*. More news of the 1983 Weather-Beater Appeal.

5.40 Sixty Minutes includes national news at 5.40; regional news magazines at 5.53; weather at 6.15; and closing headlines at 6.38.

6.40 *Angela, Nurse Ladipo* suggests a wrong diagnosis in the case of a Nigerian patient which could lead to his death 7.05 *Tesomorrow's World* includes a report by Judith Hann from Israel on a hospital which observes every detail of Jewish religious law

7.30 *Top Of The Pops*. The latest video performances and studio appearances of the artists responsible for the latest rash of popular records. Presented by Simon Bates and Janice Long

8.00 *Wildlife on One*. Night Life. A composite picture of the night-life of the British countryside. Narrated by David Attenborough (see Choice).

8.30 *Only Fools and Horses*. Rodney's good deed for the day turns sour once brother Del's mischievous instincts take over

9.00 News with Sue Lawley 9.25 *Johnny Jarvis*. The last episode in the story concerning the youth of today. Johnny and Stela and their baby move in with Alan, now a successful songwriter.

Johnny, in contrast, is jobless with his confidence at a very low ebb

10.20 *Question Time* with David Alton, Liberal MP for Mossley Hill; military general Sir John Hackett; Dr Conaghan McDonald, Labour MP for Thurrock, and James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland

11.15 News headlines 12.20 *International Show Jumping* from Olympia 12.30 *Weather*

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m; 1089kHz/275m; Radio 2: 693kHz/453m; 909kHz/300m; Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m; VHF -90.92.5; Radio 4: 200kHz/1500m; VHF -92.95; BBC 1152kHz/261m; VHF 97.3; Capital: 1548kHz/194m; VHF 95.8; BBC Radio London 1458kHz/206m; VHF 94.5; World Service MF 54.8kHz/463m.

TV-2AM

6.25 *Good Morning Britain* presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen. A review of the day's papers at 6.25; news from Gavan Scott at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; sport at 8.35 and 7.40; exercises at 8.45 and 9.15; *Farming with Barry Wilson* at 8.55; John Stapleton with a guest in the Spotlight at 7.45; guest Pat Coombes from 7.55; money talks at 7.45; pop video at 7.55; Paul Gambaccini reports the latest films at 8.35; cookery with Michael Barry at 8.02; and closing news headlines at 9.23

ITV/LONDON

8.25 *Thames news* headlines followed by *Seasame Street*. Learning made fun with the *Muppets* 10.25 *Belgique - Côte Jardinière*. The life of a Belgian farmer 10.45 *Little House on the Prairie* (r) 11.35 *Prize Fun - The Movie*. Derek Griffiths introduces a programme about the development of sound in the cinema. (r)

12.00 *Teatime and Claudia*. An animated story entitled *A Day by the River* 12.10 *Get Up and Go!* with Beryl Reid (r) 12.30 *The Sunflowers*.

1.00 News with Leonard Parkin 1.20 *Thames news* 1.30 A Plus. Key Avila talks about Christmas past with Lord Tonty (in a Welsh mining community). Beatrice Reading (in a small Pennsylvania town where granddad was sheriff); Jimmy Boyle (in prison); and Julie McKenzie (working in pantomime) 2.00 *Looks Familiar*. Dennis Norden reminisces about showbusiness in the Thirties and Forties (r)

2.30 *Snooker*. Coverage of the Home-crest World Doubles 3.30 *Sons and Daughters*.

4.00 *Teatime and Claudia*. A repeat of the programme shown at noon 4.15 *Dragonquest* (in the Palace of the Cats) (r) 4.20 *First Post*. Viewers' criticism of ITV children's programmes 4.35 *Porky Pig* (r) 4.45 *Space Preview: The Making of Krull*. Sue Robbie goes behind the scenes at Pinewood Studios 5.15 *The Young Doctors*.

5.45 *News 6.00* *Thames news*. 6.30 *Thames Sport*. Steve Rider talks to Sebastian Cox in Los Angeles; and Ian Botham talks about England's winter cricket tour.

7.00 *Knight Rider*. Sunken treasure is the bat this evening and Michael Knight and KITT dive underwater in the attempt to trace the hoard. Directed by Richard Thorpe.

7.30 *The World Chess Championships*. The semi-final. Jeremy James reports on the games being played in London and Bill Harston analyses the moves with his expert eye.

8.00 *100 Great Sporting Moments*. Highlights of the 1970 Wimbledon Ladies' Final between Margaret Court and Billie Jean King.

8.30 *Global Report*. Melvyn Sturz, foreign editor of the Soviet government newspaper, Izvestia, talks to Peter France about his job. (see Choice).

9.00 *Dear Ladies*. Dr Evadne Hing and Dame Hildegard with another story from village life in Standon Thresh (r).

9.30 *The Great Palace: The Story of Parliament*. This penultimate programme in the series that looks behind the scenes at Westminster and Parliament examines the machinery involved in the enactment of a law.

10.00 *Ebony* introduced by Juliet Alexander, Vina Herbert and Wayne Layne, includes a report by Krishna Govender on the way jobs are being provided for Liverpool's unemployed black population; with the *Black Community Poetry Prize* winner, Grace Nichols; and the story behind Bob Marley's hit *Battle Soldiers*.

10.30 *The Sweeney*. Flying Squad drama starring John Thaw and Dennis Waterman who, tonight, move somewhat upmarket when they investigate a series of society robberies (r).

11.30 *Snooker*. Highlights of the day's play in the Hofmeister World Doubles tournament.

12.15 *Night Thoughts* from the Rev Jim Graham.

10.50 *Newsnight*. Ends at 11.40.

12.00 Closedown

Reagan decides to seek reelection

Continued from page 1

The main reason why lingering doubts had remained about his intentions centred mainly on his age. He will be almost 78 by the time his second term expires, which would make him the oldest President in American history. However, he is in robust health and recently wrote an article for *The Washington Post* explaining how he keeps fit.

President Reagan has already indicated that Vice-President George Bush will again be his running mate next year as he was in 1980. As it is virtually certain that Mr Reagan's nomination will be unchallenged, next year's Republican convention in Dallas will, in the words of one aide, take the form of a "coronation" at which the President's accomplishments will be extolled rather than the usual "horse race" between rival candidates.

A well-organized political machine has been established to ensure that the President gets off to a flying start next month. The Reagan-Bush Campaign Committee has already raised more than \$3m (£1.2m) and its formal announcement is expected to produce a surge of new donations for his campaign fund.

The President's decision to seek reelection comes at a time when his popular approval rating is as high as it has been since 1981. A poll carried out by Mr Richard Wirthlin on behalf of the campaign committee shows that 62 per cent of people questioned approve of his performance as President. The survey showed Mr Reagan 16 points ahead of his two main Democratic challengers, Mr Walter Mondale and Senator John Glenn.

The President's popularity, together with the continuing economic recovery, means that he will be entering next year's race as the firm favourite to win the November election. However, his aides concede that the race will be much tougher than in 1980, particularly if the Democrats unite behind a strong candidate and develop a coherent campaign strategy.

They also point out that Mr Reagan's present high ratings could be upset if the situation in Lebanon deteriorates.

● President Reagan yesterday publicly conceded for the first time that he would consider withdrawing American forces from Beirut if there was a complete collapse of order in Lebanon.

Prince William steps out to face the press



The Prince and Princess of Wales keeping a firm hold on their son yesterday (Photographs Harry Kerr).

Prince William, aged almost eighteen months, displaying real professionalism before the cameras at Kensington Palace yesterday.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Queen visits Customs and Excise at King's Beam House, Mark Lane, EC3, to mark their tercentenary, 3pm.

The Duke of Edinburgh visits British Side, Wigton, Cumbria, 2.25 and then Carlisle cathedral.

Princess Anne, president of the Save the Children Fund, accepts a car from the Ford Motor Company at SCF headquarters, Marylebone Road, London, 3.30.

The Duke of Gloucester visits

Wesbury and District Hospital, 11.05; and opens Laverton Almshouses, Wesbury, Wiltshire, 12.

Princess Michael attends a carol concert at Guildford cathedral, Surrey, in aid of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, 7.45pm.

Princess Alexandra attends the Olympic International Show Jumping Championships, Olympia, London, 6.35.

New exhibition

Christmas exhibition featuring new work by Michael Joseph Browne; and African and Oceanic collections and Sotheby's Art: Gimpel Gallery, 16 Lloyd Street,

Manchester: Mon to Fri 9 to 5.30, Thurs 9 to 5pm, closed Sat and Sun (until 6 January).

Exhibitions in progress

The Second Bombing, by Mulheimer Freibert, Fruinmarket Gallery, in aid of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, 7.45pm.

Confessions of a Homing Pigeon, by Nicholas Meyer (Coronet, £4.50)

Pocket Classics, new series, includes The Vicar of Blyton, by Anthony Trollope (Allen Sutton, £2.95)

Richard Wagner's Ring, Art and Theatre, by Ronald Taylor (Granada, £3.95)

The Complete Book of the Crossword, by James Astbury (Granada, £2.95)

The Once Days, by John Gardner (Coronet, £1.95)

The Times As English Reader, by Marion Elliot & Peter Strut (Collins, £2.95)

The World of Charles Dickens, by Angus Wilson (Granada, £3.95)

Water Music, by T. Coraghessan Boyle (Granada, £2.50)

Writing in Society, by Raymond Williams (Verso, £3.95)

New books - paperback

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:

China, Alive in the Bitter Sea, by Fox Butterfield (Coronet, £4.50)

Confessions of a Homing Pigeon, by Nicholas Meyer (Coronet, £4.50)

Pocket Classics, new series, includes The Vicar of Blyton, by Anthony Trollope (Allen Sutton, £2.95)

Richard Wagner's Ring, Art and Theatre, by Ronald Taylor (Granada, £3.95)

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Weather forecast

Pressure will be low to the SW with troughs of pressure spreading into the SW later.

6am to midnight

London, SE, E England, E Anglia: Rain early, sunny periods, becoming cloudy later; winds S moderate; max temp 8 to 10°C (46 to 50).

Central, NW England, Midlands, N Wales, Lake District: Mainly dry, sunny periods, becoming cloudy after a misty start; winds S moderate; max temp 8 to 10°C (46 to 50).

Channel Islands, SW England, S Wales: Showers, becoming mostly cloudy with general rain later; winds S moderate; max temp 8 to 10°C (46 to 50).

Scotland: Showers, becoming mostly cloudy with general rain later; winds S moderate; max temp 8 to 10°C (46 to 50).

Highland: Showers, becoming mostly cloudy with general rain later; winds S moderate; max temp 8 to 10°C (46 to 50).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh: Showers, becoming mostly cloudy with general rain later; winds S moderate; max temp 8 to 10°C (46 to 50).

Scandinavia: A73: Drainage work, single lane traffic near Carlisle Bridge, Lanarkshire, A82: Resurfacing and drainage work from two to four miles north of Tarbet, Dumbartonshire, progress further south for bridge. A74: Traffic reduced to single lane. A77: Construction work north of junction with A719 at Turnberry (Ayrshire), single lane traffic.

Information supplied by AA.

Mild and unsettled.

6am to 5pm: N England, N Wales, Lake District: Mainly dry, sunny periods, becoming cloudy after a misty start; winds S moderate; max temp 8 to 10°C (46 to 50).

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